Global Research Trends and Regional Disparities in the Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants: A Bibliometric Analysis (2013–2023)

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Abstract

This bibliometric analysis of Scopus-indexed literature (2013–2023) investigates global research trends and regional disparities in the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants. By analysing 12 studies selected from 30 initial search results, the study identifies dominant themes such as diaspora, religiosity, and activism that reflect the socio-political dynamics of Arab Muslim migrants in host countries. These findings highlight the intersections between migration, identity, and politics, influencing policy and integration processes. However, notable regional disparities exist, with 75% of studies originating from the United States and Western Europe, while contributions from the Middle East and North Africa remain minimal. This imbalance limits perspectives and highlights underrepresentation. The research gaps also include insufficient exploration of how European policies affect integration and limited empirical studies addressing political participation strategies in non-Western contexts. This study emphasises the significance of political participation in fostering multicultural policy development and integration. The bibliometric methodology employed, including the use of VOSviewer for keyword co-occurrence analysis, provides quantitative insights into research patterns and thematic clusters, ensuring a rigorous evaluation of trends and gaps. Practical implications include the need for interdisciplinary and regionally inclusive approaches to address systemic barriers and enhance participation. Policymakers and researchers are encouraged to prioritise underrepresented themes and regions, facilitating more inclusive and comprehensive migration studies.

Keywords:
Arab muslim migrants; bibliometrics analysis; migration studies;
political participation; regional disparities

Introduction

Migration, which is driven by social, economic, and political changes that compel individuals or communities to move from one region to another, both nationally and internationally, has been a complex and significant social issue in the ever-changing global landscape. Global trends show that the primary motives for migration include security, economic, and educational factors, which play a critical role in shaping migration patterns (Castles, De Haas, et al., 2014). For instance, conflicts in the Middle East have created emergencies that drive large waves of migration to various regions, including Europe and the Americas, underscoring the profound impact of conflict on population displacement. Economic-driven migration is also on the rise, especially in regions with substantial income disparities. Additionally, migration for educational purposes enriches global dynamics, with developed countries becoming primary destinations (Castles, Haas, et al., 2014; Czaika & De Haas, 2013; Koser, 2016). However,

migration does not only result in demographic changes but also introduces new challenges in social and political integration in host countries, necessitating focused attention on the political dynamics of migrant communities. This phenomenon underscores the need for solutions to understand the social and political impacts of migration, particularly concerning integration and political participation in host countries.

In this context, Arab Muslim migrants represent a unique community that warrants further study. They migrate to various parts of the world, both East and West, for various reasons, including religion, economy, security, and education. A study by Khatimah (2019) on the history of immigration from the Arabian Peninsula to Dompu Regency found that religion and economic factors significantly influenced the movement of this community (Khatimah, 2019). Meanwhile, others leave their home countries due to conflict, war, or educational needs. The global challenges, such as Islamophobia and anti-immigration policies in host countries, often shape their political agency and influence their ability to integrate socially and politically. Islam, as a distinct religious identity, often intersects with global political discourses, influencing how the Muslim communities engage in politics. These implications highlight the challenges of identity, inclusion, and integration, which are central to understanding their political participation.

While previous studies have explored migration and integration broadly, a critical research question remains: Why are studies on the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants limited? Could academic or policy biases have contributed to this omission? For instance, are these gaps influenced by a tendency to prioritise economic and security dimensions of migration over political agency, particularly for the Muslim communities? Addressing these questions is crucial to understanding how global discourses, such as Islamophobia and assimilationist frameworks, may have shaped research priorities. By framing these inquiries, this study aims to critically examine the underlying factors that influence the underrepresentation of Arab Muslim migrants' political participation in academic and policy discourses.

This study aims to address this gap by analysing global research trends on the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants. Using a bibliometric approach, this study maps global research patterns to identify contributions, key themes, and gaps in the literature. Bibliometric analysis offers a unique advantage in surfacing patterns, gaps, and biases within existing scholarship, providing an interdisciplinary perspective that bridges migration studies, political science, and sociology. For instance, Rahman (2023) examined policy innovations in Indonesia, while Abdillah (2023) analysed changes in the political behaviour of migrant communities using VOSviewer (Abdillah, 2023; Rahman, 2023). This interdisciplinary approach not only identifies research trends but also highlights the potential for advancing theoretical frameworks across disciplines.

The initial hypothesis of this study is that publications related to the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants tend to increase during periods of global crises affecting migrant communities. Additionally, this research argues that the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants is influenced by social factors such as religiosity, discrimination, and integration policies in host countries, which are closely linked to their level of political engagement. This study is expected to demonstrate that the political integration of Arab Muslim migrants has a significant impact on shaping more inclusive and responsive policies. By presenting these research trends, this study can help clarify how the political dynamics of Arab Muslim migrant communities influence policies and social relations on a global scale. Therefore, the

findings of this study are expected to provide deeper insights into the dynamics of political participation in the migration context.

Method

This study employs bibliometric analysis to evaluate trends and metrics in research on the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants. According to Donthu et al. (2021), bibliometric analysis is typically divided into two types: performance analysis and scientific mapping (Donthu et al., 2021). This study adopts a scientific mapping technique as outlined

by Mukherjee et al. (2022), which involves various analytical techniques such as publication frequency, citation frequency, frequently cited publications, and analysis based on specific units (Mukherjee et al., 2022). Bibliometric analysis is widely utilised in studies focusing on topic development and is frequently adopted by academic administrators and policymakers to measure scientific productivity and impact (Balogun, 2023; Fiandari, 2022). Additionally, this method is commonly employed by librarians, research administrators, journal editors, and researchers (Rousseau et al., 2018).
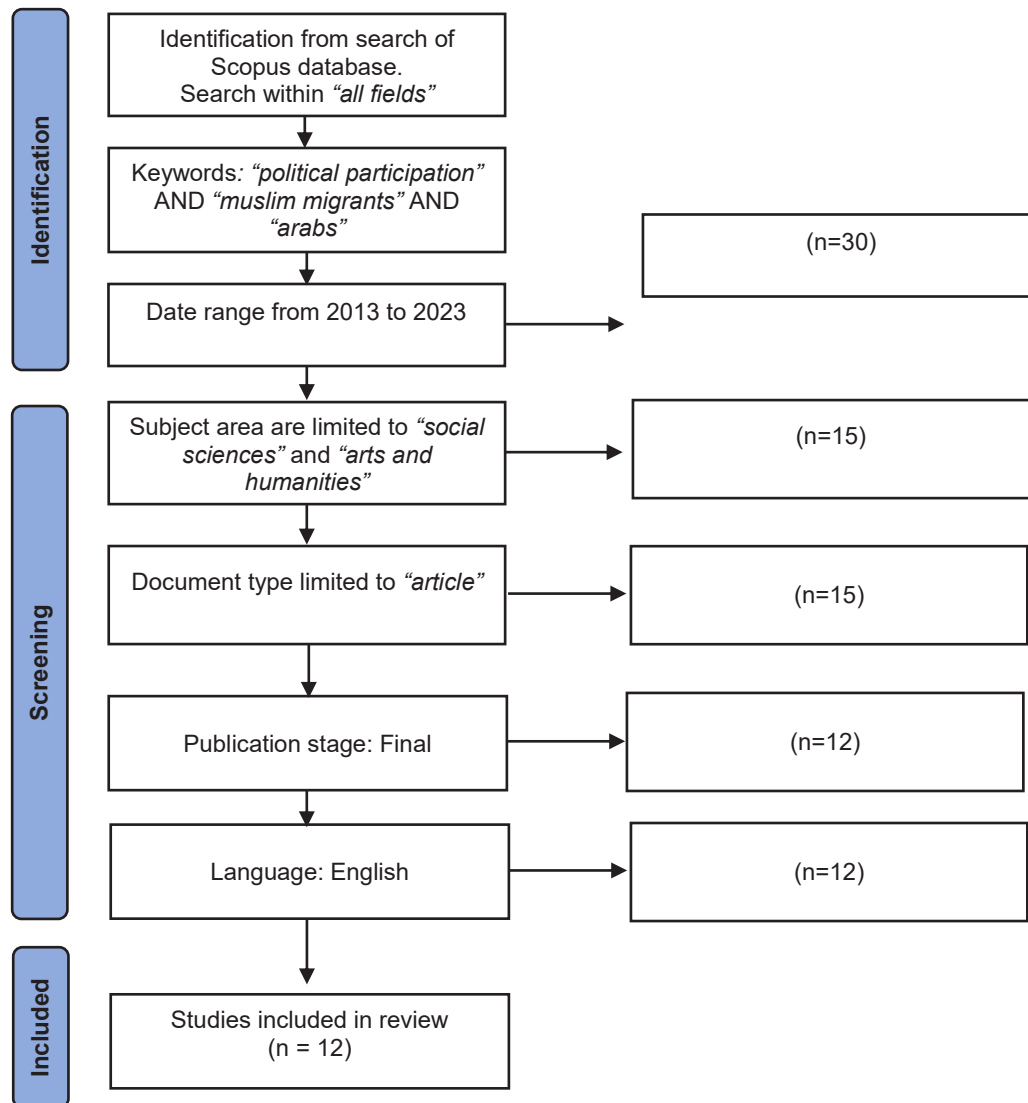

Figure 1. PRISMA Flow Diagram for Article Search and Selection in Scopus Database
Source: Processed by the Author (2023)

The keyword selection process began with identifying terms relevant to political participation and Arab Muslim migrants. The chosen keywords *"political participation," "muslim migrants,"* and *"arab"* were selected based on their specificity and ability to capture the core aspects of the research topic. The authors tested several alternative keywords, but the final selection focused on the chosen keywords, as they were deemed the most effective in identifying relevant articles and ensuring coverage of the primary themes. Other keywords yielded limited results, emphasising the importance of specificity in keyword selection. This careful selection aimed to maximise the relevance and adequacy of the search results, ensuring comprehensive coverage of the literature on the topic.

The detailed process of identifying and filtering articles, including the inclusion and exclusion criteria, is illustrated in **Figure 1**.

The study focuses on publications from 2013 to 2023 to capture the most recent and relevant trends in the past decade. This period aligns with significant global developments that influenced migration patterns and political discourse. For example, the Syrian refugee crisis, which began in 2011 and intensified in subsequent years, and the rise of populist movements in Europe and the United States during the mid-2010s have profoundly shaped the dynamics of migration and integration policies. This timeframe also reflects a notable increase in scholarly attention to migration issues, as evidenced by the growing volume of migration-related publications indexed in Scopus. Articles published before 2013 were excluded to focus on contemporary developments and avoid diluting the findings with outdated or less relevant literature.

VOSviewer was utilised to visualise bibliometric relationships, including keyword co-occurrence networks. The parameters for analysis, such as the threshold for keyword occurrences, were set to ensure scientific relevance and data clarity. Specifically, the minimum occurrence for a keyword was set to one, resulting in the inclusion of 397 terms out of 397 identified keywords. This threshold was chosen to ensure comprehensive visualisation without omitting relevant but less frequent terms. Additionally, the selection of full counting as the method for co-occurrence analysis aimed to prioritise the inclusivity of all identified terms over weighted occurrences. The resulting visualisations—network, overlay, and density maps—provide insights into the thematic clusters and temporal trends within the literature.

While Scopus was chosen as the primary database for its comprehensive indexing of international academic publications, it inherently exhibits a bias toward English-language publications and may exclude significant contributions from non-English-speaking regions such as the Middle East and North Africa. This limitation restricts the inclusivity of the findings and potentially overlooks diverse perspectives. Future research could address this limitation by integrating additional databases, such as Web of Science and Google Scholar, which may include non-English publications and regional journals. This multi-database approach would enhance the comprehensiveness of bibliometric analysis and provide a more holistic understanding of the topic.

Results

The bibliometric results present data on research trends regarding the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants in a global context. This study uses Scopus as the primary data source. The findings include publication trends, contributions by key authors, influential institutions, and journal distribution. The data show variations in the number of publications over the years. Additionally, institutions from Western countries dominate contributions in this field. The geographical distribution

of publications and journals is also reflected in the data. These findings aim to provide a comprehensive overview of the knowledge base in this research area.

Publication Trends in Global Research on the Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants

The bibliometric analysis uncovered patterns in publication trends related to the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants. Based on data from Scopus, the trend began in 2015 with two publications, followed by years of inconsistent output, including 2016, 2018, and 2020, when no publications were recorded. The peak was observed in 2019 with five articles, reflecting increased academic attention, possibly influenced by global migration crises such as the Syrian refugee crisis. In 2021 and 2022, the number of articles rose to one and two, respectively, suggesting a slow recovery from disruptions like the COVID-19 pandemic. **Figure 2** illustrates these publication dynamics, showing a fluctuation influenced by external factors and academic focus. The trend highlights the growing interest in Arab Muslim migrant issues, but also points to the challenges of sustaining consistent research output. These fluctuations suggest a need for targeted efforts to encourage scholarly

work in this field, especially during periods of global instability.

Key Authors and Institutional Contributions

The study identified influential authors and institutions shaping this research field, with key data shown in **Table 1** and **Figure 3.** Benstead, Jamal, and Lust lead in citation impact, with their 2015 study on gender and religiosity cited 50 times, followed by Spierings with 29 citations. Eman Abdelhadi emerged as the most prolific contributor, authoring three articles focusing on employment and gender among Muslim women. Geographically, the United States dominates with five publications, as shown in **Figure 4,** followed by the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. Institutional contributions are led by New York University, which produced three articles, reflecting the significant role of Western academia in this field (**Figure 5**). However, the absence of significant contributions from Middle Eastern and North African institutions highlights a gap in representation that could limit the inclusivity of findings.

Journals and Citation Patterns

The analysis of journals in **Table 2** identifies the **Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies** as the leading publication outlet, with
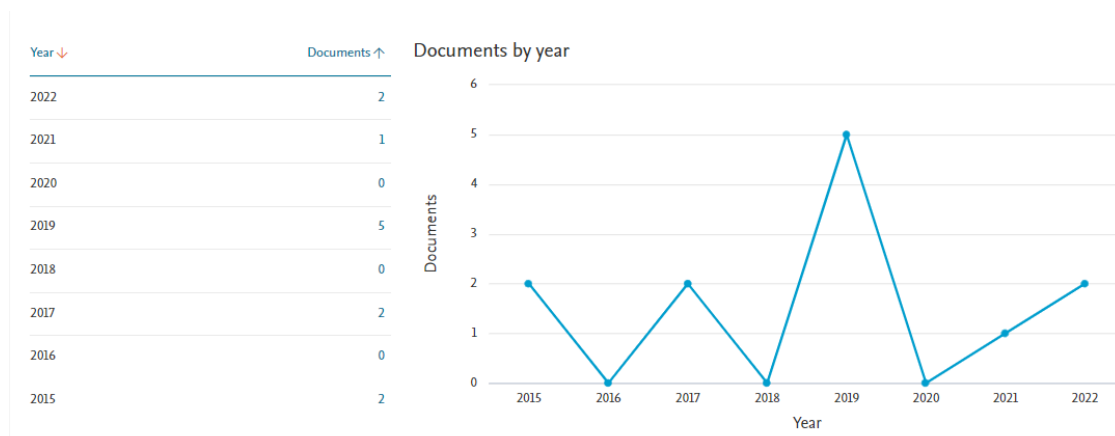

Figure 2. Development Trend of Publications on the Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants by Year
Source: Scopus.com (2023)

Table 1.

Number of Citations of Publications on the Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants

No	Writer	Document/Article Title	Year	Citations
1	Benstead, L.J., Jamal, A.A., Lust, E.	Is it gender, religiosity or both? A role congruity theory of candidate electability in transitional Tunisia	2015	50
2	Spierings, N.	Gender equality attitudes among Turks in Western Europe and Turkey: The interrelated impact of migration and parents' attitudes	2015	29
3	Beek, M., Fleischmann, F.	Religion and integration: Does immigrant generation matter? The case of Moroccan and Turkish immigrants in the Netherlands	2019	23
4	Peucker, M., Ceylan, R.	Muslim community organizations–sites of active citizenship or self-segregation?	2017	21
5	Ayoub, P.M., Bauman, L.	Migration and queer mobilisations: how migration facilitates cross-border LGBTQ activism	2019	18
6	Abdelhadi, E., England, P.	Do values explain the low employment levels of Muslim women around the world? A within- and between-country analysis	2019	18
7	Abdelhadi, E.	The Hijab and Muslim women's employment in the United States	2019	17
8	Abdelhadi, E.	Religiosity and Muslim women's employment in the United States	2017	17
9	Malakhov, V.	Why *tajiks* are (not) like Arabs: Central Asian migration into Russia against the background of Maghreb migration into France	2019	8
10	Glass, S.	How Muslims' denomination shapes their integration: the effects of religious marginalization in origin countries on Muslim migrants' national identifications and support for gender equality	2021	5
11	Maritato, C.	Turkey as the 'Liberator' of Muslims in Europe: The circulation of Islamophobia as a political remittance	2022	0
12	Alrmizan, M.	The Arabs and the Muslims	2022	0

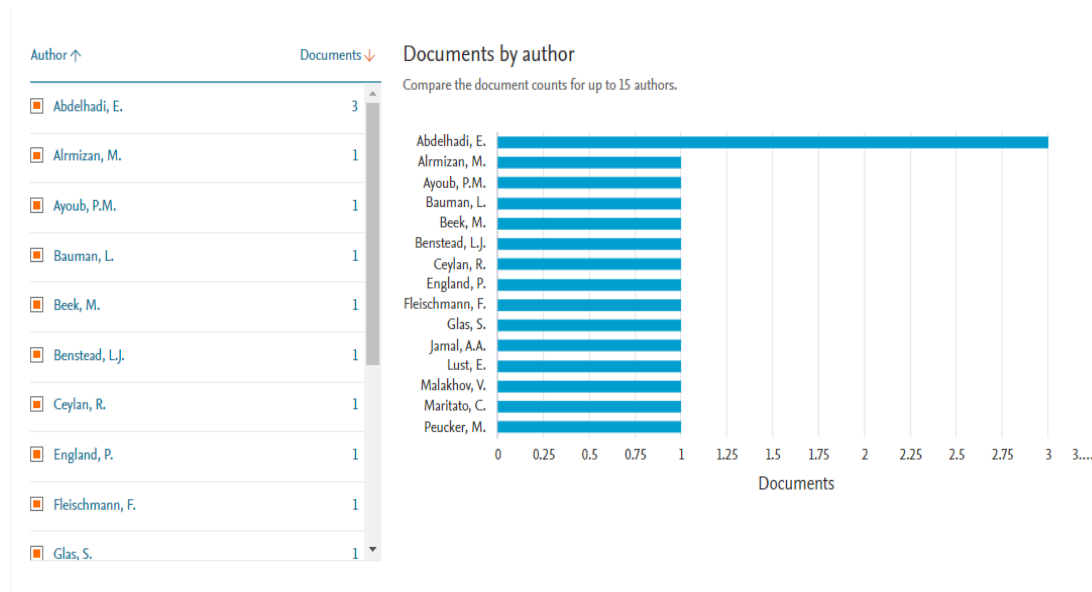*Source: Scopus.com processed by the Author (2023)*

Figure 3. Number of Publications by Author (Most Productive Author) in Study on the Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants

Source: Scopus.com (2023)

three articles and 70 citations. Other prominent journals include **Ethnic and Racial Studies** and **Perspectives on Politics**, with 26 and 50 citations, respectively. These journals act as primary platforms for disseminating research on Arab Muslim migrant political participation, reflecting the importance of migration-focused outlets. **Figure 6** visually maps the distribution
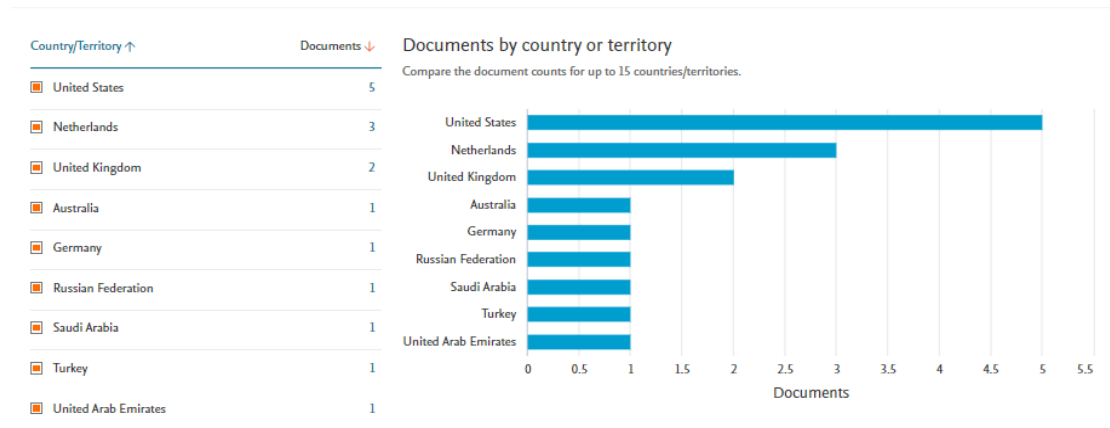
Figure 4. Number of Publication Documents by Country
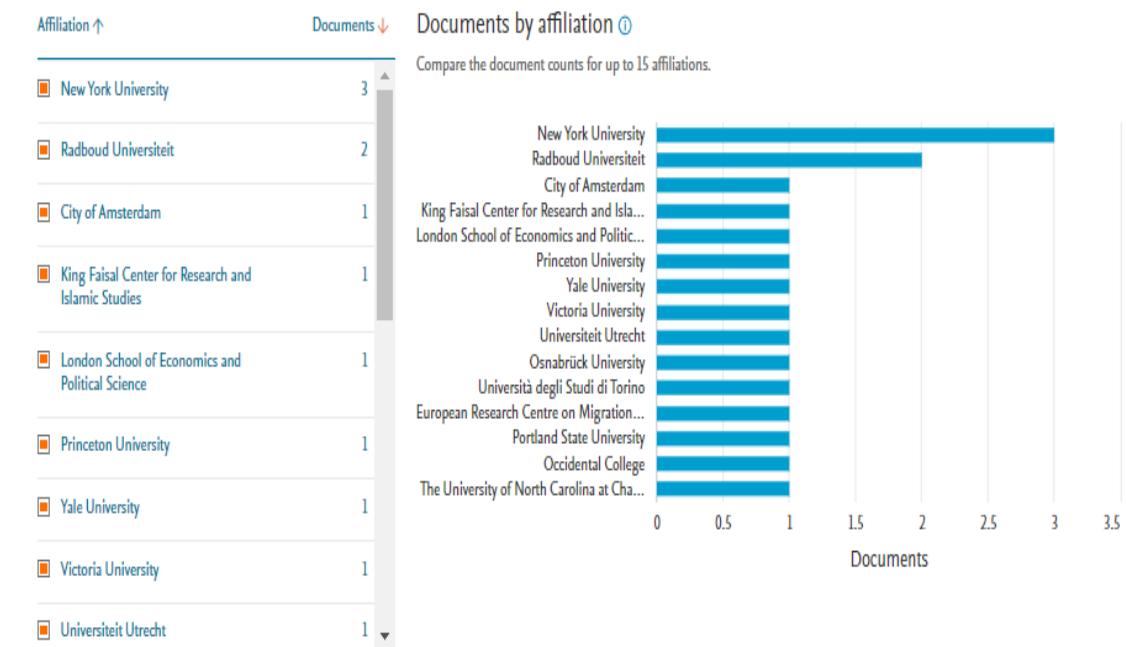
Source: Scopus.com (2023)

Figure 5. Number of Documents by Institutional Affiliation

Source: Scopus.com (2023)

of publications across journals, highlighting the dominance of migration and sociology journals. However, the reliance on English-language journals reveals a potential bias, underscoring the need for greater inclusion of regional and multilingual academic contributions. Expanding the scope to non-English journals could diversify the perspectives on this topic and address underexplored areas.

Visualisation of Co-Occurrence in the Study of the Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants

To understand publication trends regarding the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants, the VOSviewer app was used to analyse the co-occurrence of research keywords. VOSviewer offers three types of visualisation: *network,* *overlay,* and *density visualisations* (van

Table 2.
Publishing Journals and the Number of Citations Related to Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants

No	Source Name	Document	Citations
1	Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies	3	70
2	Ethnic and Racial Studies	2	26
3	British Journal of Sociology	1	18
4	Diaspora Studies	1	0
5	Nationalities Papers	1	8
6	Participation E.Conflict	1	0
7	Perspectives on Politics	1	50
8	Research in Social Stratification and Mobility	1	17
9	Socius	1	17

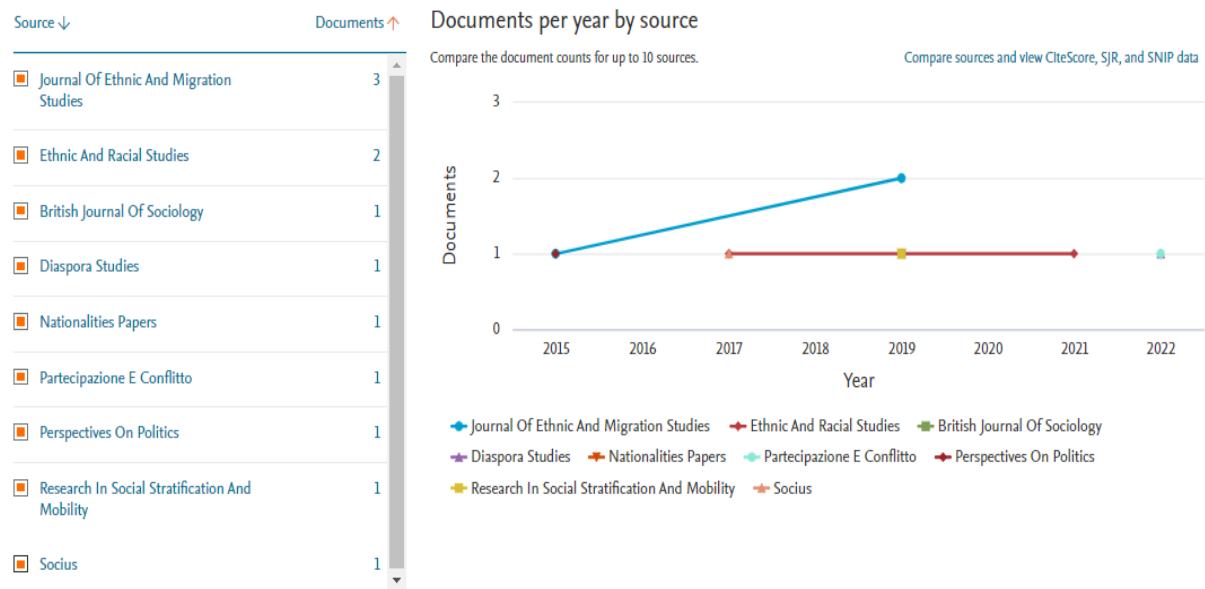*Source: VOSviewer processed by the Author (2023)*

Figure 6. Journal of Publications Related to the Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants

Source: Scopus.com (2023)

Eck & Waltman, 2013). In network visualisation analysis, the keywords analysed are those contained in the title and abstract of the research publication, provided that they appear at least once in the article's keywords. The size of the item in the visualisation network indicates the frequency of occurrence; The larger the size of the item, the more often it appears in the collected articles.

The study mapped 12 clusters in the field of political participation of Arab Muslim migrants with a total of 397 items that appeared at least once. **Figure 7** depicts the visualisation of a co-occurrence network based on keywords analysed from the title and abstract of the scientific research.

The visualisation in Figure 7 shows the distribution of research topics through the identification of different thematic clusters, with a total of 12 clusters. The size and connections between items reflect the intensity and relationships between the themes being studied.
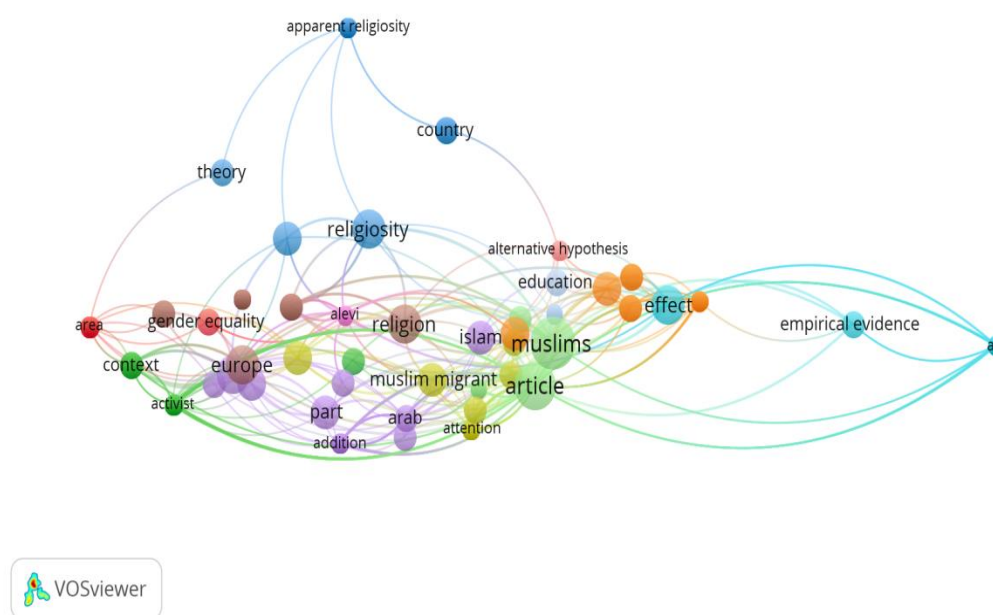
Figure 7. Network Visualisation Co-occurrence based on Keywords, Title, and Abstract Scientific Research Publications

Source: Vosviewer processed by the Author (2023)

The 12 clusters identified provide a comprehensive overview of the diverse research themes related to the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants. These clusters highlight important issues such as gender equality, religiosity, diaspora dynamics, and cross-border activism, reflecting the multidimensional nature of this topic. The cluster also shows how the experience of migration, generational integration, and community organisation influences broader political and social processes. While themes that have been extensively researched, such as diaspora policy and religiosity, affirm an established academic focus, clusters such as cross-border activism and Muslim women's employment opportunities reveal areas that are salient yet under-explored. The cluster also underscores regional and methodological disparities, with a lack of empirical studies in underrepresented regions such as Asia and Latin America. Overall, these clusters map existing knowledge while identifying potential directions for future research, especially in the areas of comparative, interdisciplinary, and still under-explored themes. This synthesis confirms the potential to deepen academic understanding of the role of Arab Muslim migrants in a complex political and social landscape.

The main thematic clusters include: **First,** attitudes towards gender equality. This cluster highlights research on how migration and parental attitudes affect views on gender equality, especially among Turkish migrants in Western Europe and Turkey. The keywords in this cluster include 44 items, namely: *area, assimilation, assimilation process, attitude, child, comparable person, cultural attitude, data assimilation, dissimilation, equality attitude, family form, gender equality, gender equality attitudes, idea, information, intergenerational transmission, interrelated impact, lineage, means, migrant ancestor, migrant family, migration history, non-migrant, non-migrant lineage, origin, parents attitude, parents attitudes, path dependency, retention, retention theory, study, support concept, time, traditional migrant, traditional view,*

transmission belt, turk, turkey-europe migration, unique data, western europe, youth (Spierings, 2015).

The second cluster is about cross-border LGBTQ migration and activism, exploring how migration affects and facilitates LGBTQ activism, particularly in the context of cross-border movements. The keywords in this cluster include 42 items, namely: *activist, agenda, bond, border, border lgbt activism, champion queer cause, context, cross-border activism, European, oecd country, facilitate, focus, identity, landscape, migrant activist, migrant inflow, migration, mixed methods approach, mobile history, multi-faceted understanding, multi-national queer organisation, multiple space, network, new issue, original dataset spanning, proliferation, propensity, qualitative interview, queer activism, queer mobilisation, queer social movement organisation, queer tsmo, relationship, sexual plurality, social movements organisation, social movements research, solidarity, state, strong relationship, transnational queer activism, transnational queer mobilisation, tsmo, unique continental ty* (Ayoub & Bauman, 2019).

The third cluster is about candidate electability based on gender and religiosity, focusing on role congruity theory, addressing factors such as gender and religiosity, which affect candidate electability, particularly during the transition period in Tunisia. The keywords include 40 items, namely: *apparent religiosity, bias, candidate, candidate electability, capable leader, careful attention, citizens perception, country dominant modernization, electoral chance, electoral quota, evidence, expectation, feature, female candidate, gender, important implication, institutional solution, leadership, mechanism, mena, novel explanation, policymaker, political bias, political bias, political context, quality, religiosity, role congruity theory, social identity theory, stereotyped trait, successful leader, survey experiment, theory, transnational, Tunisia, Tunisian post-election survey, underrepresented group, voter willingness* (Benstead et al., 2015).

The fourth cluster is about the Turkish diaspora policy and Islamophobia, exploring the Turkish diaspora's policies that seek to combat Islamophobia in Europe, including the role of the diaspora as the "liberator" of Muslims. Keywords include 40 items, namely: *anti Islamic project, attention, circulation, clarify, commitment, contour, defender, diaspora, diaspora study, dichotomic narrative, diyanet, empirical discussion, everyday life, extent, fight, international dimension, islamophobia, liberator, link, literature, muslim community, muslim migrant, official narrative, paternalistic view, political remittance, presidency, problem, process, religious affair, secular europe, shape, systemic discrimination, turkey, turkeys attempt, turkeys diaspora policy, turkish governments motivation, turkish state institution, tutelary representation, value, victim* (Maritato, 2022).

The fifth cluster, on a comparison of migration experiences, examines the migration experiences from Tajikistan to Russia and the Maghreb to France, highlighting differences in collective identity and social consolidation. The keywords in this cluster include 38 items, namely: *addition, arabic, base, case, central asia, central asian, central asian migration, central asian newcomer, collective identity, condition, deep difference, descendant, effective struggle, experience, france, host society, identification, individual identity, Islam, maghreb, maghreb migrant, majority marker, migrant, north african, newcomer, part, perception, political mobilization, precarious legal status, public recognition, role, Russia, sharp contrast, similarity, social consolidation, social exclusion, struggle, tajik* (Malakhov, 2019).

The sixth cluster is about active citizenship in the Muslim community. This cluster assesses the role of Muslim community organisations in encouraging active citizenship or social segregation. Keywords include 37 items, namely: *accessible entry point, act, active citizenship, active muslims, australia, citizenship, civil participation, civil potential, cohesive society, counter narrative, critique, cross community*

engagement, depth interview, effect, empirical evidence, explorative study, gateway, germany, healthy democracy, mainstream society, member mosque involvement, muslim community group, muslim community organization, political discourse, political involvement, political participation, potential, religious community organization, research, self-segregation, site, social segregation, special focus, synthesis, western country, widespread allegation (Peucker & Ceylan, 2017).

The seventh cluster is about hijab and job opportunities, discussing the impact of hijab wearing on the employment opportunities of Muslim women in the United States. Keywords include 36 items, namely: *analysis datawe, difference, economic outcome, employment, employment benefits, woman factor, first comparative analysis, general social survey, hijab, hijab effect, household composition variable, human capital, intra muslim difference, likelihood, lower likelihood, Muslim, Muslim woman, non-veiling Muslim woman, nonmuslim counterpart, nonmuslim woman, paucity, pay, pew research center, probability sample, probability sample survey question, religion difference, remainder, rest, socio-demographic characteristic, substantial body, United States, United States work, wheredue, woman* (Abdelhadi, 2019).

The eighth cluster is about the integration of the immigrant generation, exploring the integration of generations of Moroccan and Turkish immigrants in the Netherlands, focusing on the role of religion in the integration process. Keywords include 35 items, namely: *association, barrier, change, dutch contact, dutch friendship, economic participation, educational attainment, Europe, first generation, gender egalitarianism, generation, immigrant generation, immigrant generation matter, immigrant integration, indicator, integration, integration differ, language skill, moroccan, moroccan minority, muslim migration, national identification, negative correlation, NELLS data, netherlands, practice, public debate, relation, religion, religious identification, second generation, sexual liberalism, study, turkish, turkish immigrant* (Beek & Fleischmann, 2019).

The ninth cluster is about religious marginalisation and integration of Muslim denominations, highlighting their impact on the integration of Muslim denominations in the home country, including their national identification. Keywords include 25 items, namely: *acculturation, ahmadiyya minority, migrant, alevi, back core values, denomination, denomination shape, dominant religious majority, essentialist view, eurislam data, gender equality, increase, host country majority, migrants, marginalized minority, marginalized minority migrant, origin country, origin nation, pakistan, quantitative study, religious marginalization, shape, diversity, sunni majority migrant, support, western society, year* (Glas, 2021).

The tenth cluster is about gender egalitarian values and work participation rates, discussing how certain values affect the level of Muslim women's work participation globally. The keywords in this cluster include 22 items, namely: *alternative hypothesis, cent, muslim country analysis, country difference, distinct way, employment level, family status, future research gap, gender ideology, islam discourages, gender egalitarian value, large sample, low employment level, lower employment, own country person, prevailing view, religious discrimination, rich measure, world values survey, worldwide data, WVS* (Abdelhadi & England, 2019).

The eleventh cluster is about the global Muslim diaspora, exploring the global Muslim diaspora, with a focus on transnationalism and social understanding. The keywords in this cluster include 20 items, namely: *arab experience, article, confusion, discusses theoretical issue, global Muslim diaspora, project lens, migration theory, muslim diaspora, muslims, noticeable population, participant, primary data, report, secondary source, social understanding, status term, transnational community, transnationalism theory, world* (Alrmizan, 2022).

The twelfth cluster is about religiosity and job opportunities in the United States, examining the relationship between religiosity
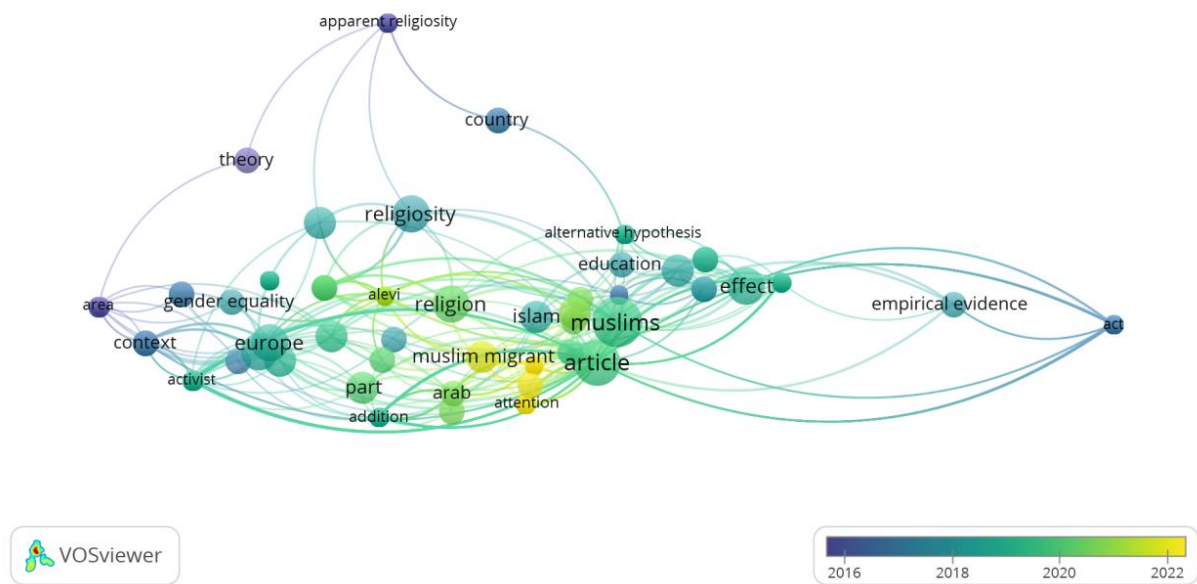
Figure 8. Overlay Visualisation Co-occurrence based on Keywords, Title, and Abstract Scientific Research Publications

Source: VOSviewer processed by the Author (2023)

and employment opportunities for Muslim women in the United States. The keywords in this cluster include 18 items, namely: *american muslim women's engagement, american muslims, childbearing, consistent predictor, data, education, ethnicity, hand, home, logistic regression model, measure, mosque attendance, muslim women's employment, Muslim women's religiosity, pew research center survey, representative sample, significant effect, work* (Abdelhadi, 2017).

Furthermore, co-occurrence overlay visualisation is used to track the history and development of scientific publications over time. This overlay visualisation can be viewed through the VOSviewer app as shown in **Figure 8**.

Figure 8 shows a visualisation of a co-occurrence overlay depicting the history of publications based on keywords that appear in scientific research titles and abstracts with a time span from 2013 to 2023. The colour difference in Figure 8 shows the progress of article publication each year. For example, the keyword *'Muslims'* with a large green circle indicates that this topic was heavily

researched in 2020-2021. Keywords such as *'area', 'theory', and 'apparent religiosity'* in purple indicate research conducted between 2016-2017. Furthermore, keywords such as *'religiosity', 'generation', and 'mechanism'* with blue-grey colours are related to research around 2018-2019. Keywords such as *'muslim migrant', 'diaspora', 'anti-islamic project', and 'arab experience'* in yellow indicate the latest research theme around 2022. Thus, this visualisation not only illustrates the progress of the research but also helps identify gaps in previous research, offering innovation in future work.

The next visualisation is the co-occurrence density, illustrating the density of a research theme being studied in the academic literature, as shown in **Figure 9**.

Figure 9 shows a visualisation of co-occurrence density that provides an idea of the level of research density on various themes. In this analysis, the saturation level of the theme is seen through the intensity of the yellow colour that appears on the visualisation. The larger and brighter the yellow colour on a theme, the
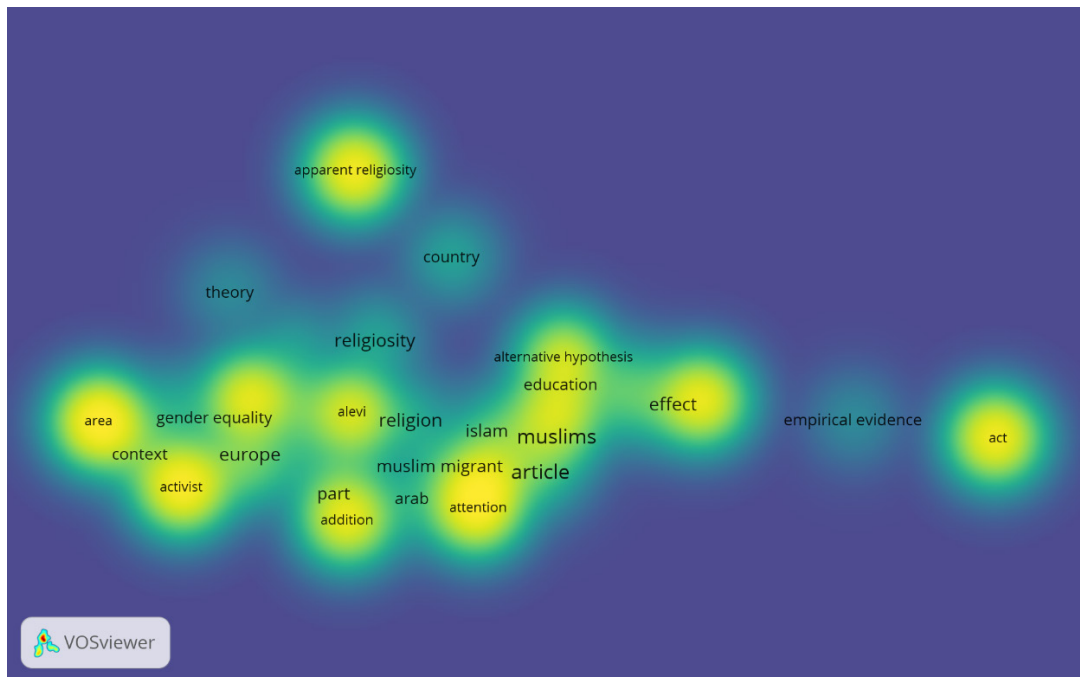
Figure 9. Density Visualisation Co-Occurrence based on Keywords, Title, and Abstract Scientific Research Publications

Source: VOSviewer processed by the Author (2023)

more research on that theme has been done and discussed. Conversely, if the colours are softer, it indicates that the theme has a lower level of research density and is less explored.

Themes such as *'diaspora', 'anti-islamic project', 'attention', 'Arab experience', 'addition', 'activist', 'area', 'alevi', 'education', 'effect', 'act', and 'apparent religiosity'* are the most researched and discussed themes in the academic literature. On the other hand, themes such as *'Muslim migrant', 'arabic', 'religion', 'europe', 'religiosity', 'empirical evidence', 'theory', 'country', and 'context'* still have low levels of research density. This suggests a strong opportunity for further research on these themes. Less-explored topics, in particular, offer potential as future research focuses to generate new knowledge.

From these three visualisations, it can be concluded that research on the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants shows dynamic developments over the past decade. Network visualisation reveals complex thematic structures, overlay visualisation provides insight into temporal changes, and density visualisation directs focus to underexplored areas. Overall, this analysis not only enriches the understanding of the existing research landscape but also opens up opportunities for innovative and relevant academic contributions to the current issues.

Summary of Key Insights

The keyword analysis, detailed in **Table 3**, identifies frequently used terms such as *"islamism," "gender equality,"* and *"religiosity,"* underscoring the thematic focus on the intersection of migration, religion, and politics. However, less frequently used keywords like *"europe," "empirical evidence,"* and *"muslim migrant"* reveal under-explored areas suitable for further research. These findings, coupled with the visualisation insights, emphasise the need for more inclusive and empirically grounded studies. Future research could address these gaps by integrating regional

Table 3.
Number of Keywords for Political Participation of Arab Muslim Migrants

No	Keywords	Sum
1	Islamism	4
2	Women's Employment; Muslims; Muslim Women	3/each keyword
3	Turkey; Religiosity; Religion; Migration; Islam; Immigrant; Gender Issue; Gender; Europe; Ethnic Group	2/each keyword
4	Young Adult; Transnationalism; Transnational Activism; Surveys and Questionnaires; Support for Gender Equality; Social Values; Social Psychology; Social Organisation; Social Network; Social Movement Organisations; Social Movement; Social Capital; Russian Federation; Russia; Questionnaire; Queer Migration; Public Opinion; Public Attitude; Psychology; Political Remittances; Political Participation; Perception; Participation; Netherlands; National Identity; National Identification; Muslims in Europe; Muslim Diaspora; Mosques; Migrants; Migrant Networks; Middle East; Middle Aged; Meleagris gallopavo; Marginalisation; Maghreb; Liberalism; Legal System; Language; LGBTQ Politics; Islamophobia; Intergenerational Transmission; Integration; Immigration Experience; Immigration; Immigrants; Immigrant Population; Humans; Human; Hinduism; Hijab; Germany; Gender Ideology; Gender Identity; Gender Equality Attitudes; France; Female; Ethnic Minority; Employment; Diaspora Policy; Diaspora; Cultural Factor; Cross-border Relations; Cross-Cultural Comparison; Comparative Study; Community Organisations; Community Organisation; Collective Action; Citizenship; Central Asia; Australia; Asian Immigrant; Arabs; Arab Diaspora; American Muslims; Aged; Adult; Acculturation	1/each keyword

Source: Scopus.com (2023)

perspectives and diversifying methodological approaches to enrich the discourse on Arab Muslim migrant political participation.

Discussion
Trends in Research and Relevance to Arab Muslim Migrants' Political Participation

The bibliometric analysis underscores significant variations in publication trends related to Arab Muslim migrants' political participation over the past decade. The peak in 2019 aligns with heightened academic responses to global events, including migration crises and the rise of populism in Europe and the United States (Schain, 2018). These external factors have motivated researchers to explore how Arab Muslim migrants engage with political systems in host countries. Notably, themes such as diaspora, religiosity, and social activism dominate the literature, reflecting the complex intersections of identity and participation (Benstead et al., 2015). However, the decline in publication output in 2020 coincides with disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which affected academic productivity globally. This fluctuation highlights the reactive nature of migration research, often driven by external socio-political contexts. Moving forward, sustained efforts are necessary to ensure consistent research focus regardless of external disruptions.

The dominance of publications from Western regions, particularly the United States and Western Europe, reveals inherent geographical biases in the field. Researchers in these regions benefit from access to resources, funding, and academic infrastructure, enabling a deeper focus on migration studies. However, this regional concentration is shaped by systemic structural forces, including geopolitical priorities and funding landscapes that prioritise certain regions and topics. Geopolitical interests of Western nations in migration issues often dictate research funding allocations, steering academic attention toward regions of strategic relevance to those nations. As a result, the perspectives from under-represented regions, such as the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa, are marginalised despite being key areas of origin for Arab Muslim migrants.

These systemic barriers faced by scholars from under-represented regions include

limited access to international research funding, language biases in academic publishing, and inadequate institutional support. Addressing these issues requires deliberate strategies to foster equitable academic contributions. For instance, promoting regional collaborations through funding mechanisms specifically targeting non-Western scholars can mitigate disparities. Establishing international research networks that prioritise under-represented regions and providing financial support for non-English publications can help amplify voices from diverse academic backgrounds. Additionally, creating mentorship programs and capacity-building initiatives in underfunded regions will enable scholars to engage more actively in global migration discourse.

Research themes also reveal a shift from passive narratives of integration to proactive engagement, emphasising the active roles of migrants in shaping political landscapes. For instance, social activism among Arab Muslim migrants is highlighted as a key avenue for political participation, allowing them to navigate structural barriers collectively (Peucker & Ceylan, 2017). These findings align with social mobilisation theories, which emphasise collective action as a strategy for marginalised groups to exercise their agency (Tilly, 2004). However, a deeper exploration of how structural barriers—such as restrictive migration policies, socio-political exclusion, and discriminatory practices—impact political participation in non-Western contexts remains under-explored. Future research should incorporate localised studies to uncover the nuanced realities of migrants' political engagement across diverse socio-political environments.

Bridging these gaps requires interdisciplinary and cross-regional collaborations that prioritise both macro- and micro-level analyses. These initiatives should also address the structural inequalities in the academic publishing landscape, ensuring more inclusive representation of voices from underrepresented regions. By dismantling systemic barriers and fostering equitable academic practices, migration studies can advance toward a more holistic understanding of the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants, enriching both theoretical frameworks and practical applications.

Theoretical Implications and Contributions to Literature

From a theoretical standpoint, this study reinforces the importance of bibliometric methodologies in uncovering research patterns on Arab Muslim migrants' political participation. By analysing keyword trends, the study identifies dominant themes like diaspora, religious identity, and gender equality, which underscore the complexities of migrant experiences (van Eck & Waltman, 2013). These themes highlight how socio-cultural factors shape political engagement, particularly in contexts where migrants face systemic barriers. For instance, the focus on gender equality addresses challenges Muslim women encounter in both formal and informal political spheres due to intersecting religious and gender-based discrimination (Abdelhadi, 2019). However, the contingencies present in the literature often fail to fully capture how religiosity intersects with other factors such as class, migration status, or socio-economic background. Future studies should broaden the scope of intersectionality to explore these interconnected dimensions, which can enrich theoretical frameworks and uncover deeper nuances in migrant experiences. These findings provide a basis for integrating intersectionality into theoretical frameworks to capture the diverse realities of Arab Muslim migrants. Additionally, bibliometric approaches enable systematic mapping of these themes, offering a structured foundation for further theoretical exploration.

This study contributes to understanding generational differences in political participation, particularly among first- and second-generation migrants. Research on Moroccan and Turkish immigrants in the Netherlands, for example, reveals distinct integration patterns between generations, shaped by evolving cultural and political contexts (Beek & Fleischmann, 2019). Second-generation migrants often exhibit adaptive strategies that reconcile cultural identity with host-country integration, providing valuable insights into acculturation dynamics. Nevertheless, generational discussions must also consider internal distinctions within groups, such as the influence of gender-based or socio-economic disparities. For instance, second-generation women may navigate unique challenges related to both gender roles and socio-economic expectations, which differ from those of their male counterparts. Broadening this generational analysis would provide a more comprehensive understanding of intra-group diversity and its impact on political participation. The role of religiosity, as both a barrier and a facilitator, emerges as a recurring theme in the literature, illustrating its dual impact on migrant engagement. Moreover, the emphasis on transnational activism introduces new dimensions to migration studies, showcasing how migrants leverage networks across borders to influence political discourse (Ayoub & Bauman, 2019). These findings enrich theoretical discussions on identity, transnationalism, and integration.

Despite these advancements, the literature reveals critical gaps that limit its comprehensiveness and applicability. Many studies focus on macro-level analyses, often neglecting the micro-level experiences of individual migrants and their communities. For example, research on Central Asian migrants in Russia highlights socio-legal challenges but fails to delve deeply into their political implications (Malakhov, 2019). Similarly, the under-representation of non-Western contexts in the literature restricts the scope of theoretical generalisations. To address these gaps, future research should employ mixed methods, combining bibliometric analyses with qualitative approaches such as life-course studies and ethnography. These methods can offer richer, context-specific insights into how migrants' lived experiences intersect with systemic structures, enabling a more holistic understanding of their political engagement. By integrating such methodologies, scholars can bridge the divide between quantitative findings and the nuanced realities of migrant communities. Such approaches will provide richer, context-specific insights that inform both academic and policy-oriented frameworks. Ultimately, these strategies would strengthen theoretical insights, ensuring that future research captures the diversity and complexity of Arab Muslim migrants' political participation more inclusively and equitably.

Limitations and Recommendations for Future Research

This study acknowledges several limitations that must be addressed to enhance the robustness of future research on Arab Muslim migrants' political participation. A primary limitation is the reliance on the Scopus database, which introduces a bias toward English-language publications and excludes significant contributions from non-English-speaking regions (Rousseau et al., 2018). This linguistic bias limits the inclusivity of findings, particularly regarding regions like the Middle East and North Africa, where migration dynamics are profoundly influenced by local contexts. To address this, future research should incorporate databases in languages other than English, such as Arabic, French, and regional languages prevalent in the Middle East, North Africa, and Sub-Saharan Africa. This approach can provide access to a broader range of perspectives and

include culturally specific insights that are often absent in English-language publications. Additionally, engaging with regional scholars through collaborative research projects and conferences can help bridge linguistic and cultural biases, enriching the inclusivity and diversity of migration studies. Furthermore, the timeframe of 2013–2023, while capturing recent trends, may omit relevant developments in earlier periods. These limitations underscore the need for a multi-database approach that incorporates sources like Web of Science and regional journals, broadening the scope of analysis.

Another limitation is the inherent constraint of bibliometric methodologies, which provide macro-level overviews but lack the depth to explore qualitative dimensions. For instance, the experiences of Muslim women navigating political systems while facing discrimination are highlighted in bibliometric studies but require qualitative follow-up to uncover nuanced realities (Abdelhadi, 2019). To address this gap, mixed-methods approaches can integrate bibliometric analysis with qualitative tools such as interviews, life-course studies, and ethnographic research. Bibliometric methods can identify macro-level trends, such as dominant themes, publication patterns, and regional disparities, while qualitative approaches provide a deeper understanding of lived experiences and localised dynamics. For instance, bibliometric analysis can pinpoint research gaps (e.g., underexplored regions or themes), which can then be addressed through targeted qualitative studies that delve into the socio-cultural and political realities of specific migrant communities. This complementary relationship ensures a more holistic and nuanced exploration of political participation.

Future research should also prioritise under-represented themes and regions to create a more inclusive academic landscape. For example, exploring keywords like "empirical evidence" and "europe" could provide deeper

insights into Arab Muslim migrants' political engagement in lesser-studied contexts (Mukherjee et al., 2022). Additionally, establishing platforms for regional scholars to publish their work in international journals, along with creating funding opportunities for research in non-Western countries, can mitigate geographical biases. Expanding the geographic scope of research to include non-Western host countries, such as those in Asia and Africa, can reveal alternative integration models and policy impacts. By adopting these strategies, future research can bridge existing gaps, fostering a more nuanced and comprehensive understanding of Arab Muslim migrants' political participation.

Practical Implications for Policy and Community Engagement

The findings of this study offer critical insights for policymakers and community organisations working to enhance the political inclusion of Arab Muslim migrants. Dominant themes such as diaspora and religious identity underscore the importance of addressing systemic barriers to political engagement, particularly those rooted in discrimination (Peucker & Ceylan, 2017). Policies aimed at empowering Muslim women, for example, can reduce disparities in political participation by tackling gender-based biases and structural obstacles. Additionally, fostering intercultural dialogue and community engagement can promote social cohesion, creating inclusive spaces for migrants to participate actively in political systems. These strategies are essential for ensuring that migrant communities feel represented and valued in host societies.

The study also highlights the significance of advocacy and solidarity as mechanisms for political participation among Arab Muslim migrants. Social activism, often rooted in shared religious and cultural identities, provides a platform for migrants to organise and advocate for their rights (Benstead et al., 2015).

This is particularly relevant in multicultural contexts like Europe, where integration challenges persist. Inclusive policies that promote representation in political institutions can strengthen trust between migrants and host communities, fostering mutual understanding. Furthermore, addressing negative stereotypes through public education campaigns can enhance the social environment, making it more conducive to migrant engagement.

Finally, collaboration between academics, policymakers, and community leaders is critical for designing evidence-based policies that address the unique challenges faced by Arab Muslim migrants. By leveraging research findings, policymakers can create targeted interventions that promote representation, inclusion, and equity (Abdelhadi, 2019). Integrating the voices of migrants themselves in policy-making processes ensures that interventions are both relevant and effective. Such collaborative efforts can also facilitate the development of best practices for fostering political inclusion in diverse contexts. These measures not only benefit Arab Muslim migrants but also contribute to the broader goal of building equitable and cohesive societies where all individuals have the opportunity to thrive politically and socially.

Conclusion

The findings of this study reveal significant insights into the global research trends on the political participation of Arab Muslim migrants from 2013 to 2023. Key findings highlight dominant themes such as diaspora, religiosity, and activism, which reflect the socio-political dynamics of Arab Muslim migrants in host countries. The bibliometric analysis shows a peak in publications in 2019, likely driven by global migration crises such as the Syrian refugee crisis, while the decline in 2020 correlates with disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The results also emphasise geographical disparities, with most research

originating from the United States and Western Europe, leaving regions such as North Africa and the Middle East under-represented. This underscores broader theoretical implications for understanding migration, integration, and transnationalism, particularly how regional and thematic imbalances shape global academic discourse and policy frameworks. The findings highlight the need to address systemic barriers and under-representation to build a more comprehensive and inclusive theoretical foundation in migration studies.

The identification of underexplored themes like *"europe"* and *"empirical evidence"* underscores gaps that future research must address to provide a more comprehensive understanding of Arab Muslim migrants' political engagement. These findings underline the importance of examining how this community influences and is influenced by integration policies, contributing to a broader discourse on migration and inclusion. By doing so, this study calls attention to the societal importance of filling these gaps, particularly how more inclusive research can foster equitable and sustainable policymaking and enhance integration efforts for migrant communities.

This study makes significant academic contributions by applying a bibliometric approach to explore the intersection of migration and political participation. It offers a structured analysis of thematic clusters, influential authors, and publication trends, providing a comprehensive understanding of research patterns in this field. By identifying dominant themes and research gaps, the study extends existing literature on migrant political participation and introduces new avenues for interdisciplinary exploration. Moreover, the findings contribute to policy-oriented discussions, emphasising the need for inclusive approaches that address structural barriers to participation. The analysis of gender equality and religiosity not only highlights

specific challenges faced by Arab Muslim migrants, particularly Muslim women, but also reinforces the broader theoretical discourse on intersectionality and identity within migration studies. These insights underscore the necessity of integrating diverse perspectives to advance understanding in these areas.

Despite its contributions, this study has several limitations that should be addressed in future research. The reliance on the Scopus database introduces a bias toward English-language publications, potentially overlooking significant contributions from non-English-speaking regions. Additionally, the study's focus on bibliometric analysis limits its ability to explore qualitative dimensions, such as individual experiences or community-specific contexts. The timeframe of 2013–2023, while relevant, may exclude earlier developments or emerging trends outside this period. To address these limitations, future research should adopt tangible actions such as establishing joint funding schemes to support under-represented regions, promoting multidisciplinary research teams, fostering collaborations with scholars from under-represented areas, and implementing innovative qualitative methodologies that complement bibliometric approaches. These actions will ensure a richer and more inclusive body of work that can better inform theoretical and practical advancements in the field.

Ultimately, by expanding geographic and thematic reach, engaging with diverse scholars, and fostering inclusive academic practices, future research can contribute to more equitable and sustainable policymaking and integration efforts. This provides not only academic value but also societal impact, supporting migrant communities and promoting a more inclusive and just global society.

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