

Mapping the Research Trend of Economic Justice in Public Perspective: A Bibliometric Analysis

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ABSTRACT

The paper emphasizes the development of academic activity in the topic of economic justice from a public perspective over the last ten years by presenting a bibliographic analysis of research trends in this area. The study's objectives are to measure the amount of research produced, evaluate the influence of economic justice research by looking at journal impact factors and citation trends, and pinpoint important topics and networks of cooperation among scholars. The study, which makes use of data from the Scopus database, shows a large increase in the number of publications on economic justice, with important contributions coming from researchers in Australia, the United States, and the United Kingdom. Four main research areas are identified by the study, with an emphasis on socioeconomic determinants, human development, social justice, and health policy. The findings highlight the value of network analysis tools such as VOSviewer in mapping the body of knowledge in the field of economic justice research and provide insightful information for further study in this area. The need for ongoing research cooperation is emphasized in the study's conclusion to improve the comprehension and implementation of economic justice concepts worldwide.

Introduction

The Recently, researchers all over the world, including Muslim scholars, have paid close attention to bibliographic methods in systematic literature reviews. This has been influenced by, among other things, the use of software to support systematic reviews by researchers, the cross-disciplinary approach that makes it available to experts in many scientific domains, and its capacity to manage huge amounts of data (Musa et al., 2023). In economic justice research, bibliometric methodology is a numerical approach that helps researchers identify trends and prevent sample selection bias. This paper illustrates the historical evolution of economic justice research using bibliometrics. Issues covered include fair trade, workers' rights, income inequality, poverty alleviation, and obtaining access to health care and education. Through the sharing of their original concepts and approaches to challenging socioeconomic issues, researchers from many disciplines contribute to this conversation. The quantity, caliber, and influence of economic justice research are all usefully revealed by bibliometric analysis, which

examines publication patterns, citation networks, and teamwork. Pointing out new trends, significant authors, and major research themes also helps researchers determine what they already know and what they need to learn more about (Abubakar, 2017).

The objectives of this bibliometric analysis are multifaceted. Firstly, it aims to quantify the volume of research output related to economic justice, examining trends over time to identify periods of growth, stagnation, or decline in scholarly activity. Secondly, it seeks to assess the impact and influence of economic justice research by analyzing citation patterns, journal impact factors, and authorship networks. Thirdly, it aims to identify thematic focus areas within economic justice research, highlighting key topics, subfields, and emerging trends. Lastly, it aims to examine collaboration networks among researchers and institutions, providing insights into knowledge production and dissemination dynamics in this field (Abuhassna et al., 2022).

To guide the scope and focus of this study, several research questions have been formulated:

1. What are the overall trends in research publication volumes related to economic justice over the past decade?
2. How do citation patterns differ across subfields and topics within economic justice research?
3. What are the predominant themes and topics addressed in economic justice research, and how have they evolved?
4. Who are the leading authors, institutions, and journals in economic justice research, and what is their impact on the field?
5. What are the collaboration patterns among researchers and institutions engaged in economic justice research, and how do they influence knowledge production and dissemination?
6. How does geographical distribution impact research output and collaboration networks in economic justice research?

By addressing these research issues, this paper seeks to give academics, legislators, and practitioners wishing to advance inclusive and equitable socioeconomic development a thorough overview of the economic justice research trend.

In this part, the literature review will be reported by discussing Economic Justice, followed by the conceptualization of bibliometric analysis.

Economic justice has been a central theme in economic thought, social philosophy, and public policy discourse. It encompasses the distribution of economic benefits and burdens in society, aiming to ensure fairness, equality, and opportunities for all (Khalifah et al., 2024). This literature review aims to map the research trends in economic justice through a bibliometric analysis, examining the development, key themes, influential works, and emerging areas in this field (Mi'raj & Ulev, 2024). The concept of economic justice can be traced back to classical economic thinkers such as Adam Smith, John Stuart Mill, and Karl Marx, who each had distinct perspectives on the fair distribution of wealth and resources. Smith's ideas on moral sentiments and the invisible hand, Mill's utilitarian approach, and Marx's critique of capitalism laid the groundwork for contemporary discussions on economic justice. Modern theories of economic justice have been significantly shaped by John Rawls' "A Theory of Justice" (1971), which introduced the principles of justice as fairness, including the famous "difference principle." Amartya Sen's "Development as Freedom" (1999) further expanded the

discourse by linking economic justice to capabilities and human development. These foundational works continue to influence current research trajectories (Akhter et al., 2022).

An additional investigation is called The Metamorphosis of the Islamic Political Economy Publications (1980–2021) – a bibliometric analysis and was done by (Khalifah et al., 2024) With the help of bibliometric analysis, this paper tries to figure out what the Islamic political economy (IPE) has been like over the last 40 years. The findings indicate that 39 papers are published each year that are about IPE. In 1980, scientific productivity was the lowest at 3%, but it rose by 13% in 2007. Another study, A Bibliometric Review of Islamic Economics and Finance, by (Mi'raj & Ulev, 2024) looked at a similar case. Bibliometric Papers: A Look at the Future of Islamic Finance and Economics, the goal of this study is to learn more about the latest scientific developments and trends in Islamic finance and economics. The results show that Islamic social finance and microfinance issues came up as the most important ones. These are related to ethics, corporate social responsibility, and sustainability, in that order.

Method

The Literature reviews try to organize and rate the body of literature to find the study's gaps and point out the limits of what is known (Fahimnia et al., 2015). Since this is the case, structured literature reviews are completed by coming up with good study keywords, reading the literature, and adding to the analysis. Following a five-step plan from Mishra, Gunasekaran, Papadopoulos, and Childe (2018) is the best way to do a literature review: (1) scan documents, (2) make notes, (3) organize the literature review, (4) write the literature review, and (5) make a bibliography. Similarly, we used the five-step methodology to collect data and do a full evaluation of the study area (E-government services) to find the most important research and give researchers new ideas for future studies. On top of that, we wanted to point future studies in the direction of Economic Justice (Al-Jarhi, 2017).

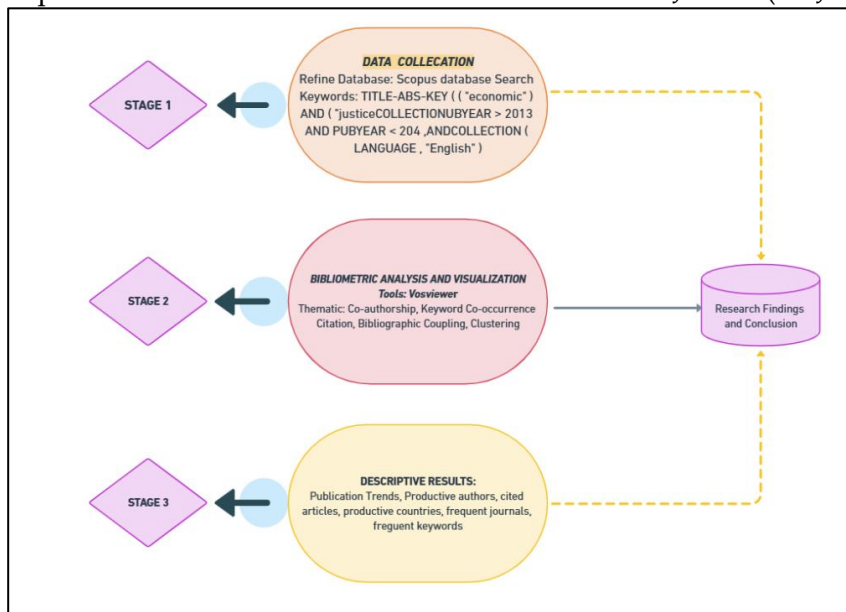


Figure 1. Authors Developed Methods

The rules for doing ethical studies in academia were strictly followed in this study. All the data used in the analysis came from academic papers that were available to the public. There was no private or sensitive information used. The bibliometric analysis mostly looks at the author or citation information and rates their most important works and intellectual flow (Feeley, 2008; Calero-Medina & Noyons, 2008). Respecting the intellectual property rights of writers and publishers, appropriate citation and acknowledgment procedures were also adhered to (Perez et al., 2023; Praja et al., 2023). Using this rigorous approach, this bibliometric analysis aims to present a complete and equitable picture of the academic debate about Economic Justice. By fusing quantitative and qualitative analysis, we can better understand the topic generate fresh concepts, and organize future (Alshater et al., 2021).

Initial results

The needed information was taken from the Scopus database only in June 2024. Scopus is the biggest citation and abstract database. It has more than 20,000 reputable peer-reviewed journals in it. Some of the reputable publishers that own these titles are Springer Publishing Company, Informs, Inderscience, Taylor and Frances, and Emerald. Scopus articles cover a lot of different fields of knowledge, like technology, the arts, the humanities, the social sciences, the applied sciences, and more. There are more records in this database than in any other database, like Web-of-Science. Scopus was used to search for articles on the above topic by Title, Abstract, and Keywords. There were 23,351 articles found in the first search. The title of the paper, the author's name and affiliation, keywords, an abstract, and references were all in these documents. (Brown et al., 2020).

Inclusion and exclusion of initial result

Duplicates were removed to improve the first results since some articles may have more than one keyword combination. The publications unrelated to Economic Justice have been screened using inclusion and exclusion criteria (Choudhury et al., 2019). Articles, reviews, book chapters, conference papers, conference reviews, and editorials were among the papers acquired. Short survey, editorial, erratum, and notes were the items that were dropped. Searching was done with language constraints rather than location ones. The included language is only English. Published over 10 years, from 2014 to 2023, the filtration operation produced 586 pertinent documents about Economic Justice. Refinement search results were exported for additional analysis in CSV and RIS formats (comma-separated values are abbreviated as CSV, research information system is abbreviated RIS) (Firmansyah & Faisal, 2020).

Initial data statistics

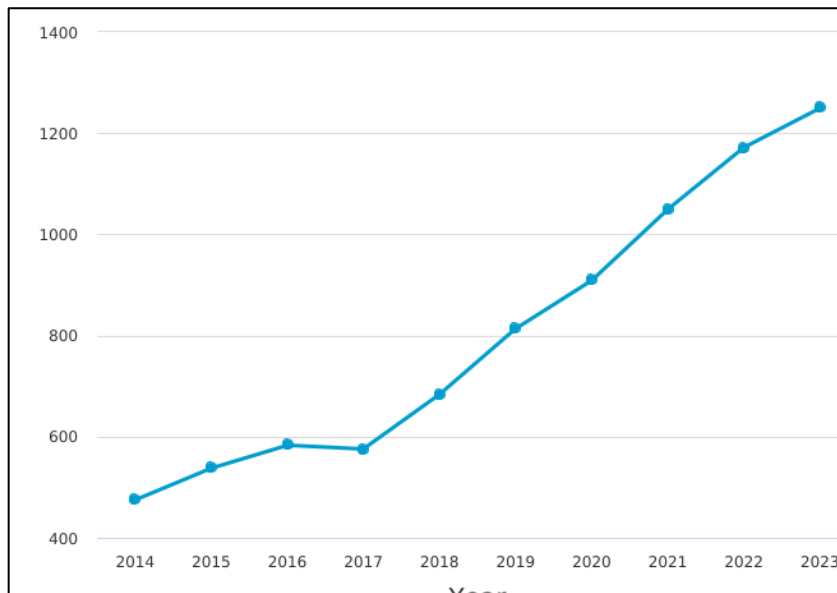


Figure 1 Growth Over Time

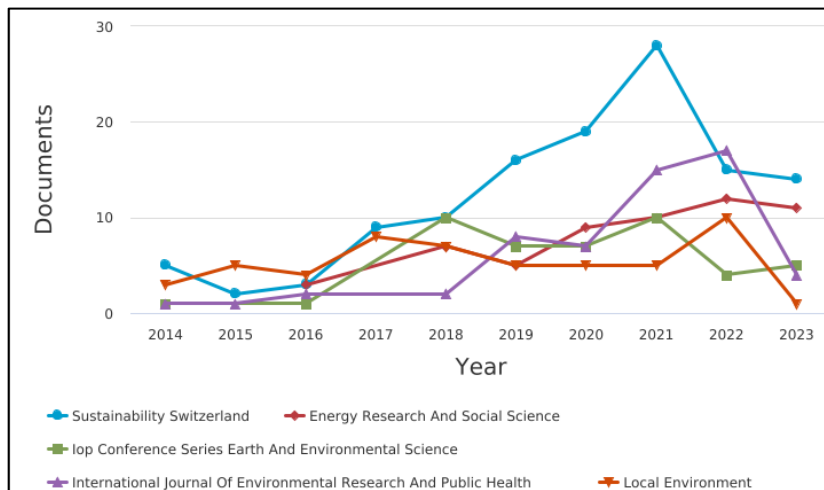


Figure 3. Classified by documents

Figures 2 and 3 indicate the chronological development of research in the field of "Economic Justice," as examined using bibliometric techniques. In 2023, there was a significant increase in publications, with about 1325 works specifically addressing the nexus of Economic Justice. In contrast to 2014, when there were around 514 relevant articles, there was a substantial rise in the number of publications. However, in 2016, the number of publications had a little decrease, stabilizing at about 662 papers, and thereafter witnessed a substantial increase.

Results and Discussion

The author The bibliometric analysis focused on the issue of "Economic Justice" and included a thorough investigation of academic articles, books, and conference proceedings retrieved from Scopus databases. The study aimed to uncover significant patterns, notable authors, and the progression of research in this field across the years.

Author Influence:

I used Bib Excel to examine the frequency of a text occurrence in the different fields of bibliometric data. The Scopus database exported the RIS data file, which included the authors' field for later analysis. Furthermore, the frequency with which the authors appeared was noted. The top 10 authors who made contributions to the field of economic justice between 2014 and 2023 are listed in Table 1. With 17 publications, Sovacool, B.K. is the most prolific author; Chakraborty, J., Collins, Lynch, M.J., and McCollister, K.E. follow with 8 publications apiece. The remaining authors also help to advance the field of Economic Justice Research (Ibrahim & Nurmandi, 2023).

Table 1. Contributing authors in Economic Justice (2014-2023)

Author	Year of 1st Publication	TP	h-Index	TC	Current Affiliation	Country
Sovacool, B.K.	2005	595	100	38,008	Aarhus Universitet	Denmark
Chakraborty, J.	1995	83	35	3,725	University of California	United States
Collins, T.W.	2005	149	38	3,775	The University of Utah	United States
Kopnina, H.	2005	149	32	3,260	University of Northumbria	United Kingdom
Lynch, M.J.	1995	151	30	2,967	University of South Florida	United States
McCollister, K.E.	2001	100	31	3,073	University of Miami Leonard M.	United States
Bell, M.L.	2001	410	106	147,193	Yale University	United States
Grineski, S.E.	2005	158	37	3,647	University of Utah	United States
McAuliffe, P.	2008	35	9	237	University College Cork	Ireland
Murphy, S.M.	2009	108	22	1,902	Info Weill Cornell Medicine	United States

Countries' Statistics

The CSV file that was exported from the Scopus database was used to get the documents by country. The United States is at the top of Table 4's list of the top 10 countries that contribute

Keywords are the unit of analysis.

Full counting is the way to count.

The least number of times a keyword can appear is 128. Top 50

Keyword occurrences reveal domain-specific research trends and study hotspots (Zou et al., 2018). Similar analytical methods are used to identify frequently used phrases or words in paper titles or keyword lists, contributing to keyword discourse and improving understanding of a field of study. Additionally, keywords reveal the content's intellectual core. The VOS viewer analysis found 28,919 keywords in all Economic Justice articles. With a minimum keyword occurrence threshold of 5, 2903 keywords meet this criterion. The minimum occurrence threshold is raised to 128 to identify 50 trending keywords from the pool. Figure 1 shows how VOSviewer divides the top 50 keywords into four color-coded clusters: red for Cluster (1), green for Cluster (2), blue for Cluster (3), and yellow for Cluster (4). The study's main focus, Economic Justice, is a major node in Clusters (1) and (2). Upon closer inspection of the clusters, nodes (keywords) within each cluster show strong map structure relationships. The keyword frequency rates in each cluster reveal previous study topics. Cluster I (red) covers social and economic justice (25 items), Cluster II (green) Human Development and Psychology (15 items), Cluster III Health Policy and Economic Impact (8 items), and Cluster IV Socioeconomic Factors for Economic Justice (2 items). Each cluster represents an Economic Justice research trend, showing distinct research streams based on keywords within the cluster.

Table 1. Decomposition of Clusters with Frequency of Keywords (Top 4)

Cluster	Keyword	Occurrences (Frequency)	Total Linkage Strength
Cluster#1	social justice	1461	4279
	environmental justice	798	1842
	justice	714	2542
	united states	544	2418
Cluster #2	Human(s)	2289	14233
	article	800	5406
	female	456	3663
	adult	390	3080
Cluster#3	public health	260	1607
	covid 19	215	693
	economic aspect	165	1191
	priority journal	165	1252
Cluster #4	Socioeconomic factors	265	681

	Socioeconomic	123	281

Co-authorship among Different Countries

Figure 5 shows how people from different countries worked together by showing how they co-authored the paper. It is set so that VOSviewer needs at least 5 documents per country by default. Out of 267 countries, 91 meet this condition. To find the most important countries, we raised the minimum number of documents for country 15 and the minimum number of citations for country 10. This gave us 61 countries that met this condition. Because of this, the US has the most co-authorships, with 2914 originating from all over the world. But the most recent partnership, even though it's not as big, is between Indonesia and Saudi Arabia.

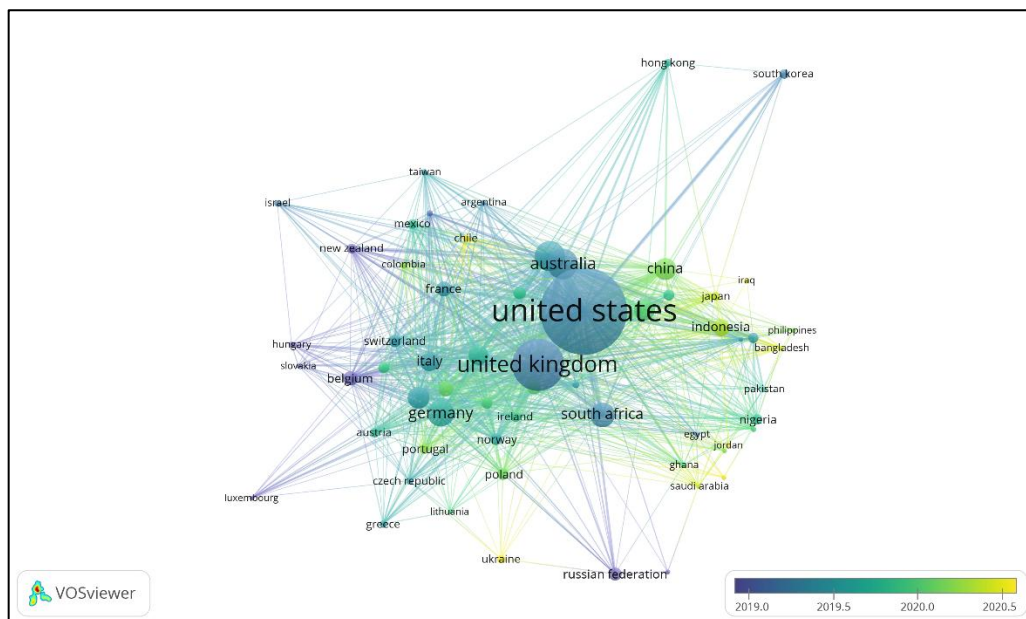


Figure 5. Classified by co authorship and countries

Type of analysis: Co-authorship

Unit of Analysis: Countries

Minimum number of documents of the country: 15

Minimum number of citations of country: 10

Bibliographic Coupling of Different Sources:

Out of 3664 sources, only 369 meet the criteria, requiring a minimum of 5 documents and no citations for each source. When narrowing the search to sources meeting the more restrictive criteria of a minimum of 10 documents and 10 citations, 108 sources are found to meet this threshold. The analysis of Figure aligns with the insights provided in Figure 7. However, concerning collaboration, it is discernible that "Sustainability Switzerland" and

"Energy Research and Social Science " stand out as the most approached journals by authors, who also contribute to numerous other journals.

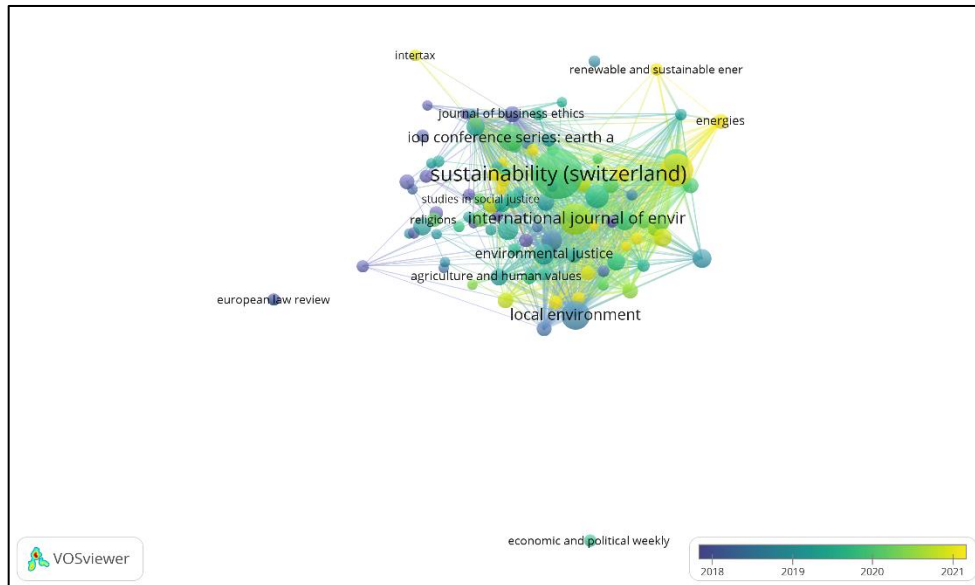


Figure 6. Bibliographic Coupling

Type of analysis: Bibliographic Coupling

Unit of Analysis: Sources

Counting Method: Full Counting

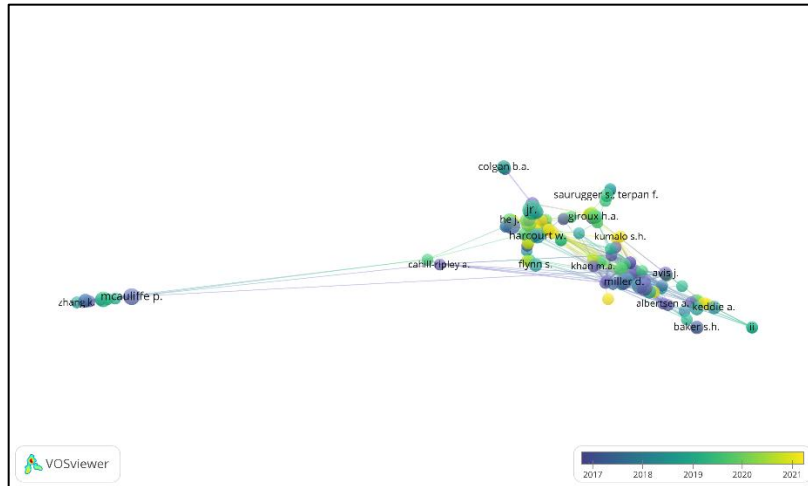
Minimum number of documents of source: 10

Minimum number of citations of source: 10

Bibliographic Coupling of Authors:

It is not simple for one person to do research on a subject by themselves. To be successful, many scientific research projects need people to work together. A big part of bibliometrics is studying co-authorship. Liao et al. (2018) use the level of research cooperation as a measure of how research is going in a certain study area right now. This part mostly shows the authors' and organizations' analyses of who co-authored the paper. We use VOSviewer software to do the co-authorship analysis. Figure 6 shows a co-authorship analysis. Authors and organizations are the units of analysis.

Figure 7. Coupling of author



Conclusion

The Bibliometric and network analysis were used in this study to look back at and look into trends in the research that has been done on economic justice over the past 10 years. Between 2014 and 2023, about 8,789 articles about Economic Justice were published in journals that are part of the Scopus database. Even though there are a lot of literature reviews on economic justice, it seems necessary to use bibliometric and network analysis to find the most important authors, publications, clusters of new studies, and collaborations between authors. This gives an evaluation of the important documents and other evaluation factors, and it adds to the field of study by showing the links between the most important papers. This study shows the patterns of what's being written in the field of Economic Justice. The outcomes display how research in the area of Economic Justice has grown, as well as the work that organizations and countries have put into publications. From 2017 to 2023, there were a lot of important publications. The most Economic Justice research was done in 2023, according to the study. Sustainability was the most important source. Switzerland had the most publications by Sovacool, B.K., the most citations by Bell, M.L., Mao M., and Sovacool, B.K., the most important affiliation in the field of Economic Justice was the University of Oxford, and the United States had the most publications within its borders, making it the most important country in the field of Economic Justice.

This study found some of the most recent works in Economic Justice. These can be used to find articles that might be important for future research. To set the stage for more research, it is important to know who the important scholars are in Economic Justice. Based on the strong links between the keywords in the cluster, Table 3 shows the cluster analysis and lists the main research questions in the field of Economic Justice. On the other hand, keyword analysis can be seen as keywords that appear only a few times showing possible subjects (topics) for future studies. That's one thing this research has added. The usefulness of VOSviewer for network analysis is another thing that this study adds. There aren't many Economic Justice studies that use VOSviewer as a network analysis tool. This study makes a plan for how to use VOSviewer Software to do bibliometric and network research.

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