

A historical review on mapping the evolution and direction of leadership in Islam: Challenges and development opportunities



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Abstract The purpose of this study is to chart the evolution and direction of leadership research in Islam in papers indexed in the Scopus database. This study use bibliometric analysis tools to investigate all articles on Leadership in Islam indexed in the Scopus database between 1987 and 2023. The collected data was analysed with Microsoft Excel and R/R-Studio. VOSviewer was used to conduct a visual study of the occurrence of keywords and document citations at the same time. The author discovered 330 papers that fit the function, subject, and criteria that were specified. The data revealed a 7.38% yearly growth rate. This study solely includes meta data from Scopus-indexed publications. This study did not take other national and international data borders into account. This study provides a quick summary of the literature available to Islamic Studies academics, as well as recommendations for further research.

Keywords: leadership, Islam, bibliometric, VOS viewer

1. Introduction

In general, leaders need everything, and something will not run without a leader (Umar et al., 2021). Leaders play a very important role in certain fields. One of the roles of a leader is to coordinate his subordinates to achieve goals that have been agreed upon together (Rakel, 2007; Abdoulaye et al., 2023). However, leaders also have a very large responsibility compared to their members. The practice of leadership can be seen in the environment around us (Moore, 2008; Rochmah & Munir, 2023). For example, in the realm of family, there is a father as a leader; in the realm of government, there is a mayor or regent who is a leader. Another example that we can see is a president who is the leader of a country (Fatimah et al., 2023). He has an important role and bears great responsibility for his ministers and people. In general, leadership can be interpreted as the power or strength of a person in regulating all things in various aspects (Vandermeulen, 2021; Condra et al., 2019; Abulmajid, 2023). Leaders are expected to be able to influence everything, of course influencing everything in a positive way (Schulz, 2006). Leadership is a reference for achieving a goal, and responsibility is the main ethical consideration in leadership (Sholikhah et al., 2019; Supriyanto & Ekowati, 2020; Armita & Saad, 2022).

While leadership in Islam is built not only based on the Qur'an, the Prophet Muhammad Saw also models it in his life with his companions. Along with social, political and cultural developments, leadership develops dynamically (Shuhari et al., 2019; Ridha et al., 2023). The first leadership was carried out by the Prophet when in Medina, he had a dual role, namely, as head of government and as a judge because he was the Apostle at that time (Romadhona et al., 2023). At that time, Islamic shari'a was strongly held in the government, and then the relay of leadership (khilafah Islam) was given to the companions (khulafaur rasyidin).

Leadership is synonymous with men; this is the same as the position of the leader in the family, namely, the husband (Levitt & Ware, 2006; Rozy et al., 2023). Leadership is given to men because men are given advantages by Allah Swt. in terms of physical and financial support (Chowdhury et al., 2019; Sule, 2023). Husbands have the responsibility to act as leaders by providing guidance to families, both wives and children, according to the Qur'an and in the pleasure of Allah (van den Branden & Broeckart, 2011). This is in accordance with the findings of Q.S. and Nisa verse 34 (Mobeen et al., 2019; Makarim et al., 2023). The exposure of the meaning of leaders, which is allowed only for men, makes the position of women slightly oppressed (Lopes Cardozo et al., 2022; Fadli, 2023). This also has an impact on the freedom of women who have limitations in doing something in all fields (Asman, 2008; AN et al., 2023). These limitations are considered unfair between men and women. The existence of problems regarding the unfair position of men and women has led to a new term, which



is often referred to as gender equality (Shaya & Abu Khait, 2017; Wahid et al., 2023). This term emerged because women can be seen as equal to men, including in leadership (Del PradoLu, 2013; Fadli, 2023; Mahmudulhassan et al., 2023).

Abdullah Saeed's interpretation of an-Nisa verse 34 contextually is that men have a position as leaders that is not permanent but only in a functional context (Brooks & Ezzani, 2022; Hartati et al., 2023). This means that leadership can be performed not only by men but also by women. This contradiction in meaning is in line with the shift in position in terms of family leadership, where the wife is more dominant than the husband (Schmeding, 2021; Sholeh et al., 2023). Therefore, there is a shift in meaning regarding leadership, especially within the family sphere, namely, between husbands and wives (Robiansyah et al., 2022). Leadership in Islam research is vital for critically analysing existing research findings to lead the road for future research and provide projections for policymakers on areas that require more rapid development (Yahya et al., 2022). This evaluation technique strongly relies on the availability of trustworthy data. Bibliometric research is a tool used to map published research data. The Scopus database is employed in this analysis because of its high trustworthiness.

2. Method

Bibliometric analysis methods were used in this study in the form of document analysis and network analysis. The data were obtained by using the Boolean search engine to comb through the Scopus database between 1987 and 2023. The search was conducted on 27 May 2023. The researcher used R and R-Studio tools, VoSviewer, and Microsoft Excel to analyse the documents and networks. The steps taken by the researcher are as follows:

First, the researcher will conduct a literature review on related themes to ensure that relevant research is carried out on bibliometric topics. In addition, the literature review is useful for determining appropriate keywords and is considered to represent the scope of the research.

In Stage Two, at this stage, the researcher used the Boolean operator (TITLE-ABS-KEY (islamic AND leadership) OR TITLE-ABS-KEY (quranic)) to search Scopus, which resulted in 391 documents. Furthermore, filtration was performed with Boolean operators (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar")) AND (LIMIT-TO (LANGUAGE, "English")) to limit the use of English documents and articles as document types, resulting in 330 final documents.

In the third stage, the final documents were analysed using a Scopus analyser and R and R-Studio to determine the number of documents per year and the number of documents by journal, author, affiliation, country, and subject/field. Furthermore, analysis of the document network level was carried out via visualization through VOSviewer and Microsoft Excel data management.

In detail, can be seen from Figure 1, below:

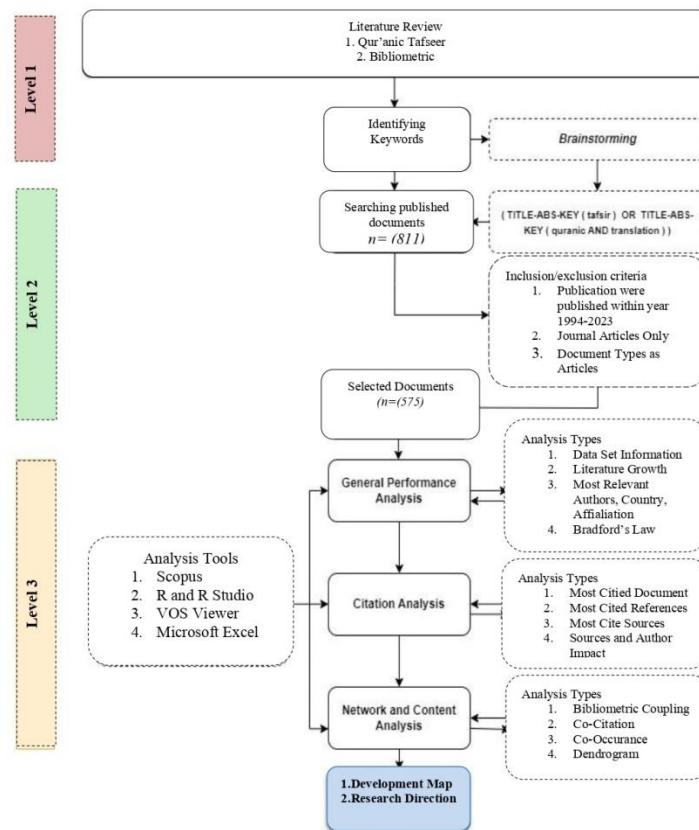


Figure 1 Flow of research methods.



3. Results and Discussion

3.1. Document analysis

3.1.1. Document Information

Table 1 provides an overview of the 381 documents collected over 36 years. The sample included 588 authors, 192 single authors, 10.61% international authorship collaboration, and 15859 references, with an average number of citations per document of 7,782.

Table 1 Document Information.

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	1987:2023
Sources (Journals, Books, etc.)	212
Documents	330
Annual Growth Rate %	7,38
Document Average Age	7,74
Average citations per doc	7,782
References	15859
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	592
Author's Keywords (DE)	1127
AUTHORS	
Authors	588
Authors of single-authored docs	192
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	202
Co-Authors per Doc	1,86
International coauthorships %	10,61
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	330

3.1.2. Documents by Year

Figure 2 shows that the number of publications on leadership has grown. This started from the beginning of writing in 1987, although at the beginning of writing, it was stable, with a total of 1 publication occurring before 2001. In 2002, there was a slight increase, from 1 to 5 publications. After that, it returned to 1 publication in 2003. In 2004, there was a slight but significant increase to 6 publications. In 2005-2007, the number of publications fluctuated up to 2-3 publications per year. In 2008, the increase in publications was quite high, from 4 publications to 11 publications, and stabilized until 2009 despite a decrease of 1 publication. In 2010, the number of publications decreased to 4. However, in 2011, the number of publications increased to 15. For the next 2 years, the number of publications continued to increase, rising to 20 publications in 2012 and 22 publications in 2013. Then, in the following year, it decreased again to 11 publications, namely, in 2014-2015. Journal publications related to leadership again experienced an increase in publication age of 4 years; namely, there were 15 publications in 2016, 19 publications in 2017, 25 publications in 2018, and 27 publications in 2019. The following year experienced a decline again, although not too much, namely, to 24 publications. The following year, 2020-2021, experienced an increase again, which was quite high. There were 31 publications in 2020 and 35 publications in 2021. The year 2021 was the highest year for publications on leadership. and, in 2023, there were 13 publications.

3.1.3. Most Relevant Authors

Figure 3 shows the 10 most relevant authors in the field of leadership in Islam. According to these data, there is no author who has the most dominant place in writing on this subject. The top 3 authors have the same number of publications, i.e., 3 documents. These authors are A. Knudsen, T. Koburtay and I. Lala. The other 7 authors followed below with the same number of documents, namely, 2. These authors are T. Abuhussein, F. Adam, N. Ahmad, S. Akbarzadeh, M.C. Brooks, M. Daneshgar, and S. Edwin.

3.1.4. Documents by Affiliation

Figure 4 shows the universities that have published articles on Islamic leadership. International Islamic University Malaysia is the highest university with 9 publications. Universiteit van Amsterdam follows below with 6 documents. Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Malaya follow in 3rd and 4th place, respectively, with 5 documents each. Six universities had the same number of publications, with 4 publications. The universities are Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Utara

Malaysia, Bar-lian University, Princet University, University of Pennsylvania, and University of Birmingham. Universities from Malaysia publishing this journal are dominant and compete with universities from European regions.

3.4.5. Documents by country

Figure 5 shows the countries that published on the theme of leadership in Islam. Although 85 publications were published in the U.S., Asian countries are the dominant countries that publish journals on this topic. These countries are Malaysia in second place with 38 publications, followed by Indonesia in third place with 37 publications, Turkey in fourth place with 15 publications, and West Asian countries in the 8th and 9th places, namely, Israel with 12 publications and Iran with 8 publications.

3.1.6. Documents by source

Figure 6 shows that the most published sources of leadership in Islamic journals are Abayan and Cumhuriyet Ilahiyat Dergisi, with 10 publications each. There are 9 publications from Islam and Christian Muslim Relations, 7 from the Journal of Shi A Islamic Studies, and 5 from the British Journal Of Middle Eastern Studies. There are 5 sources that have the same number of publications, namely, Advanced Science Letters, International Journal of Scientific and Technology Research, Journal of Business Ethics, Journal of International Women Studies, and Journal of North African Studies.

3.1.7. Threefold plot

Figure 2 contains 3 observed elements: the journal publication name, author name and theme or topic used. The three elements are then connected by gray plot lines that are related to each other. The size of the plot indicates how many publications are related to the theme. Based on the figure above, there are 3 journals. The journal that publishes the most related research on the theme of leadership in Islam is the Journal of Business Ethics, which is shown in orange and associated with 2 authors, namely, T. Korbutoy and T. Abuhussein.

Based on Figure 5, there are 10 authors. The size of the bar chart shows how many research publications were published by each author. Among the 10 authors who wrote the most articles on the theme of leadership in Islam are T. Korbutoy.

In the third element, each research topic is connected to the author who published the research on that theme. The analysis included 7 keywords related to Islam, gender and tafsir. These findings show that these keywords are strongly related to research topics in the field of leadership.

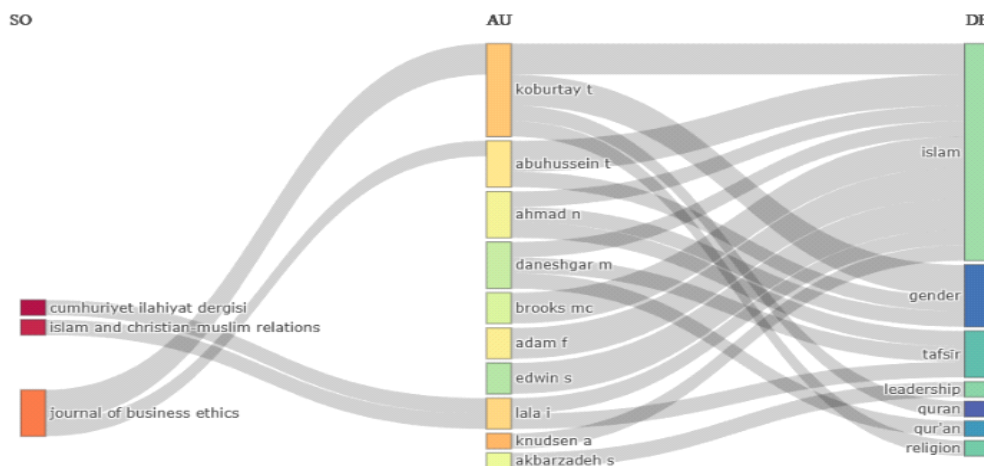


Figure 2 Threefold plot.

3.1.8. Corresponding Author's Country

Figure 3 shows the country of origin of the authors who wrote journals on the theme of leadership in Islam. The largest country in terms of single authors is the United States of America. The second place in terms of single authors is Malaysia, and the third place is the United Kingdom. Moreover, the largest country in terms of collaborative writing is the U.S., which is equal to Malaysia.

United States America, which is equal to Malaysia. Then, in third place is Indonesia. Most countries in writing journals with the theme of leadership in Islam are from the Asian continent, with a total of 11 countries. These countries include Malaysia, Indonesia, Israel, Turkey, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Kuwait, the Philippines, China and Japan.



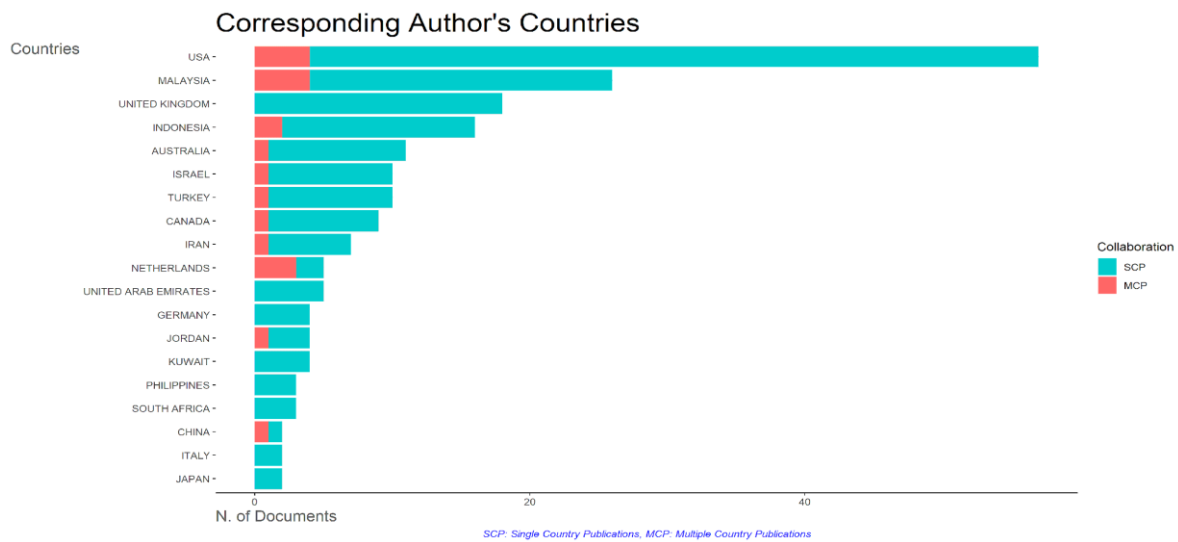


Figure 3 Corresponding Author's Countries.

3.1.9. Most Global Site Document

Table 2 shows the largest number of citations in journal publications on the theme of leadership in Islam. The largest total citation was 101 citations in the Am Ethnol journal, for a total annual citation of 5.61. The second order comes from the journal Spaan E, with a total of 86 citations and citations per year for a total of 2.87. The third place is the Cult Health Sexual journal, with 81 citations and 5.06 citations per year. According to the data in the figure below, the year of publication does not affect the number of citations, both total citations and total citations per year.

Table 2 Most Global site Document.

Paper	Total Citations	TC per Year
SCHULZ DE, 2006, AM ETHNOL	101	5,61
SPAAN E, 1994,	86	2,87
KHOEI EM, 2008, CULT HEALTH SEXUAL	81	5,06
KAPLAN S, 2002, INT J MIDDLE EAST STUD	70	3,18
JAVED B, 2017, CURR ISSUES TOUR	58	8,29
BAZNA MS, 2005, J RELIG DISABIL HEALTH	58	3,05
SAINT-BLANCAT C, 2002, INT J URBAN REG RES	58	2,64
HUTCHINSON SE, 2001, J MOD AFR STUD	56	2,43
HUQ M, 2008, MOD ASIAN STUD	46	2,88
HAJER M, 2008, PUBLIC ADM	43	2,69

3.1.10. Most Local Cited Documents

Table 3 shows the local citations found in journal publications on the theme of leadership in Islam. The largest number of local citations was 3 from the Leadersh Q journal published in 2011. This journal also has the largest global citation with 39 citations. The journal with the second largest number is the Leadersh Q journal published in 2008, with 2 local citations and 22 global citations. The third most common journal was the Business Ethics journal published in 2018, with 1 local citation and 37 global citations. A table below the year of publication does not affect the number of local citations in each journal.

Table 3 Most Local Cited Document.

Document	Year	Local Citations	Global Citations	LC/GC Ratio (%)
FARIS N, 2011, LEADERSH Q	2011	3	39	7,69
CAMPBELL RA, 2008, LEADERSH Q	2008	2	22	9,09
PURNOMO H, 2022, PERSPEKT NAUKI OBRAZ	2022	1	1	100,00
LOPES CARDOZO MTA, 2021, GENDER EDUC	2021	1	8	12,50
BAHRI S, 2018, INT J SCI TECHNOL RES	2018	1	4	25,00
HELFAYA A, 2018, J BUS ETHICS	2018	1	37	2,70
KHALIL D, 2018, J EDUC ADM HIST	2018	1	9	11,11
BROOKS MC, 2018, J EDUC ADM HIST	2018	1	13	7,69
SCHENK CG, 2018, GEOGR J	2018	1	5	20,00
EGEL E, 2017, PUBLIC INTEGR	2017	1	30	3,33



4. Network analysis

4.1. Network analysis

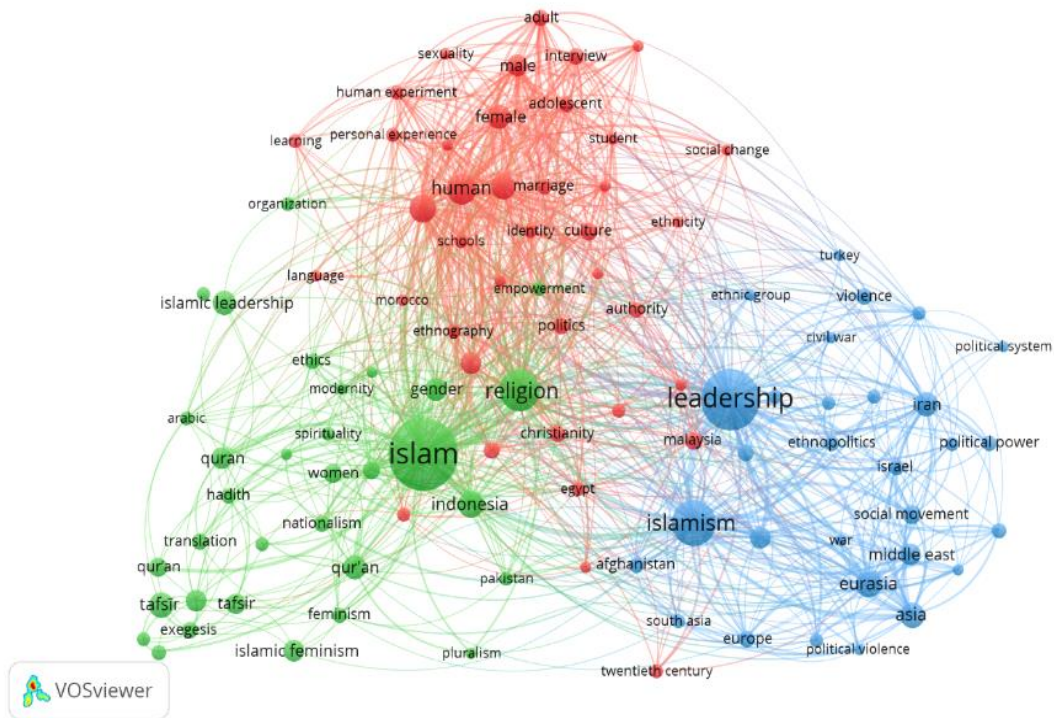


Figure 4 Network Analysis.

The figure above is an account of leadership in Islam research, with a minimum cluster size of 15. The minimum cluster size is set to group the data into 3 large clusters. Cluster 1 has 39 keywords, cluster 2 has 33 keywords, and cluster 3 has 30 keywords. In this case, the dominating keywords are shown with a large circle. The 3 keywords that dominate in the journal Leadership in Islam are Islam, Leadership and Islamism.

4.2. Overlay

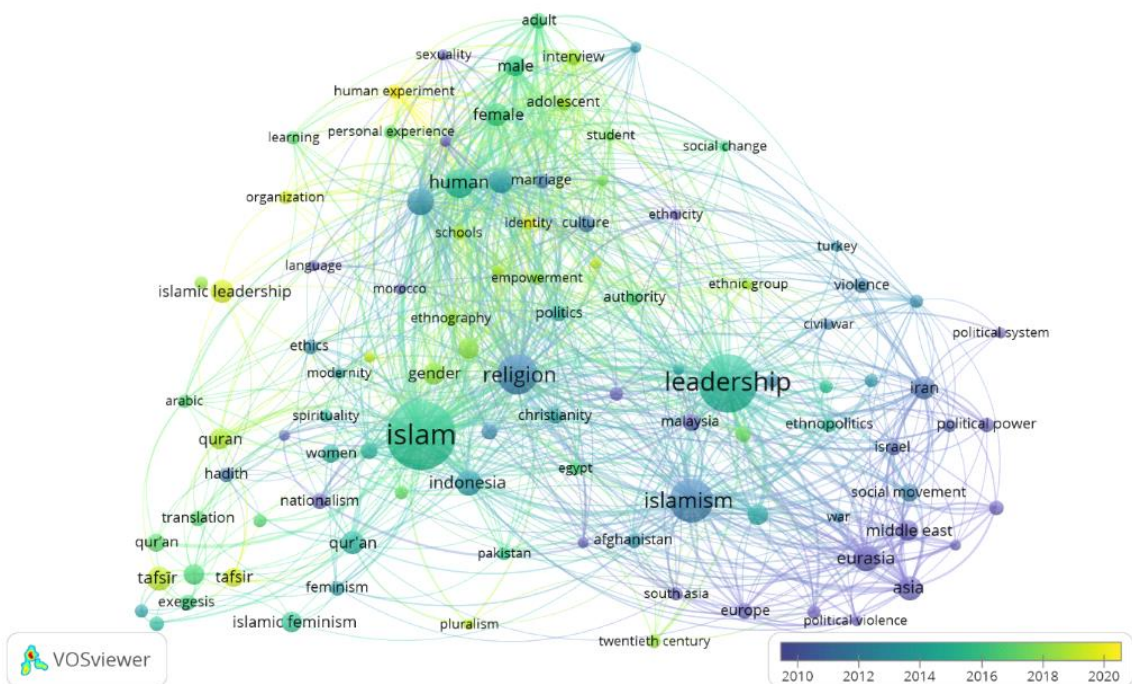


Figure 5 Overlay.



network analysis, the term “leadership in Islam publication” has three dominant keywords: Islam, leadership, and Islamism. High-density keywords include Islam, leadership, Islamism, religion, and humanity.

Table 4 Density.

Keywords	Occurance	Cluster
Marriage	6	1
Female	16	
Human	25	
Psychology	4	
Sexuality	4	
Social change	4	
Politics	7	
Personal experience	5	
Muslim	12	
Cultural anthropology	4	
Arabic	5	2
Feminism	6	
Gender	14	
Hadith	6	
Interpretation	12	
Islamic leadership	15	
Muslims	6	
Qur’an	15	
Religion	47	
Spiritual leadership	5	
Spirituality	5	
Tafsir	11	
Democracy	5	3
Civil war	4	
Ethnopolitics	6	
Islamism	55	
Leadership	98	
Political change	6	
Political conflict	5	
Political ideology	5	
Political relations	5	
Social movement	10	

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Ethical considerations

Not applicable

Conflict of interest

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