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Bibliometric Analysis on Gender and Spirituality in Literary Studies

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Abstract

Publications on gender and spirituality have been prominently featured in many journals indexed by various databases. This article employs bibliometric analysis to investigate publication trends on gender and spiritual issues in literary studies within the Scopus database. This research utilized the VOSviewer application to analyze keyword co-authorship, co-occurrence, and citations. The bibliographic data for this study were downloaded from the Scopus database on January 8, 2024, with a search restriction over the last ten years between 2014 and 2023, and under two fields: 1) social sciences and 2) arts and humanities. The results show that of the 34 eligible publications, there are four main highlights. First, the co-authorship of research publications is relatively low and is only undertaken by a few researchers. Second, the co-occurrence of keywords reveals three main research trends over these ten years: gender-based experiences and practices, gender-based concepts, and religion and spirituality. However, keywords related to literary criticism did not appear. Third, the number of citations for documents is uneven and is dominated only by certain authors, affiliations, and countries. Lastly, network visualization reveals limited interconnectivity between topics, such as gender spirituality and literature. These results conclude that interdisciplinary research in the field of literary criticism remains widely open to address existing research gaps and encourage researchers to collaborate on related topics.

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Introduction

Literary works often raise issues about human life in their themes. The complex issues frequently reflect social phenomena, including gender and spirituality (Akhter, 2020). The repeated themes resonate with a wide range of readers, especially those who

are interested in it. In the discussion of literature, gender is seen as a cultural construction defining human identities, relationships, and power (Guimarães & Garroni, 2021). Women within their defined boundaries are depicted as being oppressed by gender roles and feminine attributes in many literary works (Mulyani, 2022). Similarly, spirituality enables authors to pose deep questions concerning the problems people face in everyday life and different religious beliefs or practices. Therefore, gender and spirituality can be understood as both preserving and challenging present norms, thus promoting critical discussion while also enhancing readers' empathy (Richey et al., 2020).

Furthermore, the interplay of gender and spirituality in literary works is usually depicted in narrative works like novels. Their tangled storylines and layered characterization provide an ideal platform for negotiating these involved themes. In addition, literary scholars also employ various theoretical frameworks, such as feminism and psychoanalysis, to unravel the underlying meanings implied in the portrayal of gender and spirituality (Bertens, 2017). The present interdisciplinary theories help to uncover intricate themes under the narrative's deep structures. Therefore, the analysis benefits enhance the development of literary criticism by studying how gender interacts with spirituality through distinct dimensions that are so abundant in the story's themes (Uimonen, 2020).

Despite the increasing interest in the relationship between gender studies and spirituality, research trends regarding the interconnection of these two fields in literary studies have received less attention. Existing studies on gender and spirituality mainly focus on social realities and religious issues, including workplace interactions, sexual violence, leadership, and mental health (Badenes-Sastre & Expósito, 2021; Boekhout et al., 2021; Geaquinto & Fry, 2023; Sebo et al., 2021; Strumia, 2021; Vedula & Agrawal, 2023). These subjects, while important, are beyond the scope of literary criticism. Specifically, bibliometric analysis conducted by literary critics examining the relationship between these two fields is still minimal. The limited number of bibliometric articles only discusses a few research topics in this area, thus indicating the need for comprehensive analysis that this research seeks to discuss (Block et al., 2020; Junior et al., 2022; Dong & Li, 2023; Huang & Ning, 2023; Isti'anah & Wijanarka, 2023; Suwartini & Suwandi, 2022).

Suwartini & Suwandi (2022), for example, conducted a substantial bibliometric study of textbooks, both literary and non-literary. They examined examples of gender inequality in educational institutions between 2015 and 2021, collecting data from Google Scholar. This study used the VOSviewer tool for data analysis, providing a comprehensive view of gender representation in textbooks. Dong & Li (2023) also undertook a similar project, aiming to uncover the structure and development of textbooks representing gender, offering different perspectives. The study referred to the Web of Science as its data source, covering publications between 1967 and 2020. Additionally, Isti'anah & Wijanarka (2023) conducted a bibliometric analysis using data from Scopus, limited to the scope of social sciences and humanities from 2020 to 2022. However, this study focuses on investigating English language teaching during the Covid-19 pandemic.

In the field of spiritual studies, Block et al. (2020) examined research trends on the relationship between religion and entrepreneurship, drawing data from five major databases, namely EBSCOhost, Web of Science, Science Direct, Emerald, and Springer. This research did not limit the data based on the year of publication but used a combination of 66 relevant keywords to collect articles. Another study focusing on mapping a study of spirituality and leadership within the scope of organizations was conducted by Junior et al. (2022), analyzing data obtained from the Web of Science from its inception to 2021. A different bibliometric study related to foreign literary studies journals was published in the CSSCI database between 1998 and 2023, as reported by Huang and Ning in 2023. However, unlike previous studies, this article emphasizes the research paths of literary criticism exploring

the triadic relationship between gender issues, spirituality, and literature. This research is urgently needed to examine research trends addressing the interconnections of these two issues in literary criticism published in reputable international journals indexed by Scopus.

In fact, Scopus, as a research database for this study, is principally based on some robust considerations. First and foremost, it is widely known that Scopus has been recognized for its enormous indexing dimensions, and it consists of a huge collection of literature from numerous disciplines of knowledge, including literary studies (Pranckutė, 2021). Other than that, the Scopus system applies strict rules before including an article in its base. Consequently, the sources obtained will be very qualitative and the latest issues. Taking advantage of advanced bibliometric techniques, Scopus also enables researchers to conduct research trend analysis in publications, network of citations, and research evaluation. The advantages of Scopus over the other databases drive this study since other tools only offer narrow scopes and views on what's happening in the current research issues.

This study, therefore, aims to examine the distribution of gender and spirituality in fiction studies of literary criticism through the existing co-authorship and co-occurrence. The databases from Scopus for the past ten years, between 2014 and 2023, provide the required statistical data for this study. This strategy offers a wide-ranging analysis and precisely determines the exact number of journal versions in the past and present developments (Najaf et al., 2022). In addition, the research comprehensively explores collaborative networks among researchers discovered from their cooperation patterns via co-authorship.

This study also examines the keywords' co-occurrence; identifying clusters of connected topics and highlighting commonly addressed areas that allow for a comprehensive overview of the field (Lee et al., 2022). This paper will then lay down a discussion on the current debate concerning gender and spirituality underpinning literary criticism. The study trends, as Abdullah & Naved (2021) argue, will provide a roadmap for future investigations, ultimately enhancing the quality of research in relation to these major themes.

Methodology

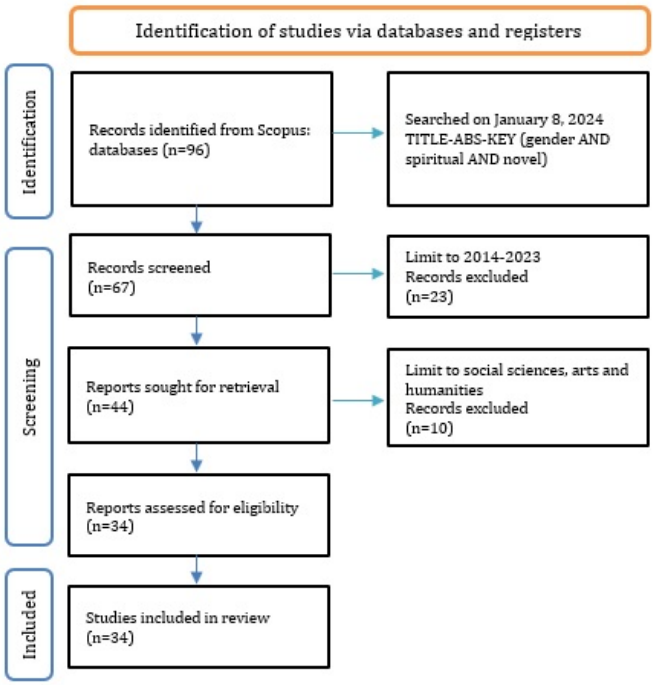
This bibliometric study adopted the method by using statistical techniques to map the publication features provided by a database (Donthu et al., 2021). Data searching is conducted by typing relevant keywords into a selected database. As a result, the database application will retrieve a set of articles related to the subject of the research. In this process, the published articles go through some filtering steps to remove redundant or duplicating items. Only eligible publications are then assessed based on preset criteria, including their relevance to the topic being researched, the quality of the study, and also the type of publication. The collected articles form the data basis of the later bibliometric analysis, which provides a noteworthy amount of data to be examined at a later stage (Chapman et al., 2019).

The data collection commenced on January 8, 2024, with a thorough process of investigation in the Scopus database adopting the method proposed by Ninkov et al. (2022). The search began with inserting keywords of TITLE-ABS-KEY (gender AND spiritual AND novel). The adjective "spiritual" was intentionally chosen instead of “spirituality” for its more expansive sense. In the first phase, 96 articles were found. The search was restricted to include publications from 2014 to 2023, gaining a total of 67 titles within these ten years. Those 67 publication types were articles (44), book chapters (13), books (6), reviews (3), and conference papers (1). From the tracked documents, this paper focused on the 44 research articles.

A further restriction was made to specifically include works in the fields of social sciences, arts and humanities. It yielded 34 eligible publications. The bibliographic information of these 34 publications was also retrieved and saved in .csv extension and then inputted into the VOS Viewer tool for analysis that includes co-authorship and co-

occurrence patterns of the articles' bibliometric information (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). The rigorous process fully warranted the credibility and significance of the data in this research as depicted in the following PRISMA visualization (Page et al., 2021).

Figure 1. PRISMA Visualization



After acquiring the data, it was used to form the relation of co-authorship countries, institutions, authors, and keywords using the VOS viewer. VOS Viewer is a particular software package that can be used in the construction and visualization of bibliometric networks (Aria & Cuccurullo, 2017). In this paper, the analysis is conducted through the examination of the bibliometric data of the selected publications, the visualization of collaboration between the authors, and the corresponding occurrence of defined terms. After that, a network is built where each node is denoted as an entity, in this case, a country, institution, author, or keyword.

The lines that tie them indicate the co-authorship or co-occurrence associations but not the strength of the association, which is displayed in this network (Isti'Anah & Wijanarka, 2023). Mere depiction of the primary contributors (e.g., leading authors, institutions, and countries) and subjects (e.g., notable articles and keywords) within a discipline needs to be revised for bibliometric study. Instead, bibliometric research should identify gaps by examining conflicting findings and underexplored regions through content or interpretive analysis of papers linked to each bibliographic or keyword cluster (Mukherjee et al., 2022). By doing such an inquiry, it enables a thorough and easily understandable comprehension of the bibliometric landscape.

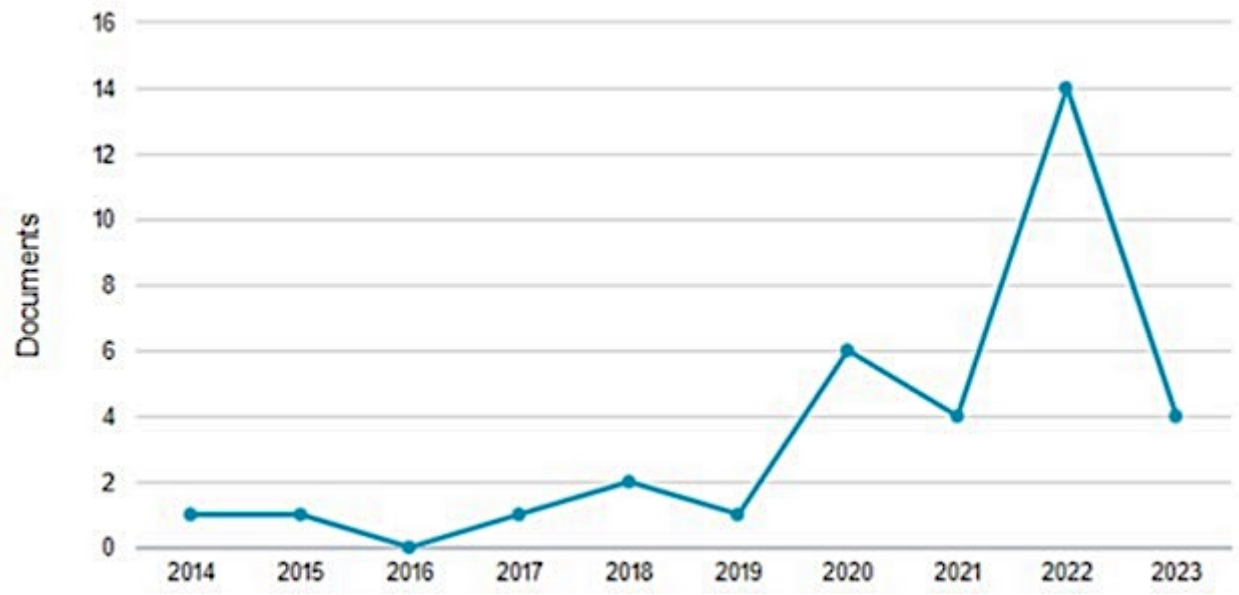
Results and Discussion

The results and discussion of this article are divided into five sub-chapters that include publication trends, publication distribution of countries, institution affiliations, authors and citations, and keywords co-occurrences.

1. Publication Trends

The publishing trend of documents about gender and spirituality in literary studies during the previous decade, as documented in Scopus, is illustrated in the following graph.

Figure 2. Documents Published by Year in the Scopus Database



The above line chart (Figure 2) portrays that there was a conspicuous absence of publication activity during the period, with an average of merely one or two documents being released each year, except in 2016. However, the trend increased significantly in 2020, with a total of six publications. The higher growth occurred in 2021 and 2022, with four and fourteen articles published, respectively, but it decreased sharply to four in the last period. In general, research publications on gender and spirituality in literary criticism have experienced an increase over the last ten years. However, the number is not very significant in indicating the strong interest and persistence in studying the relationship between gender, spirituality, and literary works.

2. Publication Distribution of Countries

Data retrieved from Scopus indicates that from 2014 to 2023, 22 nations produced scholarly articles focusing on the intersection of gender and spirituality within literary criticism. The United States stands out as the most productive country, with seven publications spanning from 2017 to 2023. It indicates a relatively long-standing interest in these themes on the part of American scholars. India comes very near to this figure with the publication of four articles between 2020 and 2022, confirming a growing awareness of the issue in an Indian context. It is interesting to note that, albeit more recently, the Russian Federation has also emerged on the scene in this field by contributing three articles in the last four years. A number of other countries have made smaller contributions in one or two essays, but this should nevertheless underline the global reach and relevance of these themes.

The identified search results are based on determining the threshold setting to meet the criterion of being co-authors. With the threshold setting at three countries, only three nations will qualify. However, when the threshold was reduced to two, a total of eleven countries were realized. The reason the study found it wise to pick the lower threshold setting is to widely capture the number of countries contributing to the current body of research about gender and spirituality. It is quite important to realize better results in understanding the global research landscape and the patterns of collaboration and dissemination of information across boundaries by researchers in different countries. It shows the collaboration of the academic community in understanding gender and spirituality in the new study field.

Table 1. Countries Producing the Documents in the Scopus Database

Cluster	Countries	Documents	Citation
1	Canada Malaysia	4	4
2	Egypt	2	0
3	India	4	8
4	Indonesia	2	1
5	Poland	2	0
6	Russian Federation	3	0
7	South Africa	2	5
8	United Kingdom	2	5
9	United States	7	20

The above data (Table 1) present the small number of countries that are into co-authorship of literary criticism studies on gender and spirituality. Furthermore, the citation data keeps significant values the same. If we consider the top ten countries, the United States dominates with a total of 20 citations, followed by India with eight citations. Other countries have citation counts ranging from 1 to 5, while other countries have not contributed to the citation count at all. This implies that while there is international interest in these subjects, the level of collaboration and influence differs significantly among countries.

However, a distinct image emerges when we drop the document criterion to one, encompassing all 22 countries. In this scenario, Japan earns the most significant citation count with 30 citations, despite its lower document count. This oddity implies that while Japan may create fewer documents, its contributions have a strong influence, as indicated by the citation count. It shows the importance of not only the amount but also the quality of research output in appraising the contribution of different countries to the topic of gender and spirituality in literary studies.

3. Institution Affiliations

In the collection of 34 articles compiled in Scopus, there are 48 institutions linked with the authors of these publications. This vast array of institutions illustrates the global and interdisciplinary interest in the study of gender and spirituality in innovative studies. However, it is remarkable that no single institution has produced more than one document, demonstrating a broad distribution of research among these universities. Based on the distribution of research output, the exploration of these themes extends beyond a few prominent universities. It is instead a widespread academic pursuit, with numerous institutions contributing to the discourse.

From the 48 institutions, a four-organization joint effort has emerged. This network is the microcosm of the vast academic community exploring gender and spirituality. The cooperation between these establishments confirms that interdisciplinary research and cooperation should play an essential role in comprehending intricate fields like gender or spirituality. Moreover, this reveals possible partnerships between different institutions that generate broader perspectives on the subjects under discussion.

Table 2. Institutions Producing the Documents in the Scopus Database

Cluster	Institutions	Documents	Citations
1	Bomu Medical Center, Mombasa, Kenya; University College London, London; Kings College London, UK; Kenya Hospices and Palliative Care Association, Nairobi, Kenya	4	20

Regarding the urgency of gender and

spirituality research, it is essential that institutions collaborate to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject. However, the data in the table above (Table 2) provide a need for more cooperation among the numerous institutions engaged in this area. Among the 48 affiliated institutions, only four organizations have been identified as collaborating on the development of papers on this topic. In addition, the four institutions have minimally reached the number of citations, with only five citations for each. Yet, disparities emerge when examining the data citation closely. Yokohama National University in Japan and San Francisco State University in the United States have amassed 30 and 14 citations, respectively, showcasing their significant impact in the field.

Conversely, citation counts for certain universities fall below five, and some have yet to receive any citations at all. This imbalance underscores the need for closer collaboration among universities and the sharing of knowledge to enhance the influence and breadth of this field of study.

4. Authors and Citations

Productivity is usually a vital indicator of an author's impact in the field of academic publishing. During our analysis of 53 authors, we discovered a distinct subgroup of four authors who have demonstrated exceptional productivity. Each of these authors has written two works over the past ten years. This level of productivity distinguishes them from their peers, the majority of whom have only one publication to their name. Nevertheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that the level of production only sometimes aligns with the level of influence.

Interestingly, among these four prolific authors, only one has had their work cited in other research, and even then, it was only a single citation. Despite their output, the remaining three authors have yet to see their work mentioned in other scholarly works. This discovery underlines the complicated dynamics of academic recognition, where quantity does not necessarily correspond to impact, as indicated in the table below (Table 3).

Table 3. Top Four Productive Authors Publishing Documents in the Scopus Database

No	Authors	Documents	Citations
1	Husniah, Furoidatul	2	1
2	Ibrahim Fouda, Nadine	2	0
3	Kaplun, Marianna V.	2	0
4	Othman, Ayman Ahmed Ezzat	2	0

Husniah et al. (2022), an author from Universitas Negeri Surabaya, Indonesia, has made a significant addition to the field of gender and spirituality in literary studies. This contribution builds on the prior discussion and references the previously exhibited table. One of her notable writings is an essay that was published in the Resmilitaris journal in 2022 and was cited only once. This research examines the narratives of two literary works, "Dua Barista" and "Hati Suhita," which portray the ordeals of women residing in *pesantren*, which are Islamic boarding institutions in Indonesia.

The study critically investigates the characters' lives to comprehensively capture the resilience of these women in managing their home affairs. The results show that individuals' power is not merely manifested in their physical prowess but also in their psychological and spiritual dimensions, corresponding to the distinctive attributes of the *pesantren* community. Forms of expression include imitation of favorable maternal behavior, longing for parental blessings, religious piety, and obligation as caretakers of *pesantren*, and adoption of Javanese cultural habits and traditions. Results of the conducted research reflected several characteristics of resilience and grit despite facing several adversities. It also probes the nexus of gender, spirituality, and

literature in contemporary *pesantren* community.

Shifting to citation counts, a noticeable pattern emerges. Sugawa-Shimada (2015), an author outside the group of four productive authors who produced only one article on the subject, has exerted a significant effect through her publication. This article has received an impressive 30 citations, which is the highest number of citations among all 53 writers. Guzman (2020) is cited 14 times in other publications, according to Sugawa-Simada. In addition to these two authors, the number of citations varies significantly, ranging from one to six.

Nevertheless, a significant proportion of authors have yet to receive any citations thus far. The notable disparity in citation counts underscores the intricate relationship between productivity, influence, and acknowledgment within the realm of scholarly writing. A solitary, influential piece of work can occasionally exert a more significant impact than multiple publications, as demonstrated below.

Table 4. Top Two Authors with High Citations in the Scopus Database

No	Authors	Documents	Citations
1	Sugawa-Shimada, Akiko	1	30
2	Guzman, Melissa	1	14

Based on the statistics above (Table 4), it is essential to highlight the enormous influence of Akiko Sugawa-Shimada's work from Yokohama National University, Japan. The research, which has gained as many as 30 citations, stands apart in the field of gender and spirituality studies. Published in the Japan Forum, her study dives into the value of historical tourism for young women within socio-cultural and feminist contexts. It analyzes the contemporary 'rekijo' phenomenon and women's 'pop-spiritualism' and how these aspects contribute to redefining their national identities and challenging traditional Japanese gender standards. The article gives a deep analysis of women's heritage tourism, charting its growth from the influence of An-an and Non-no in the 1970s, through historical dramas in the 1980s, the Mirage of Blaze series in the 1990s, to Sengoku BASARA and Hakuōki in the 2000s. This comprehensive analysis emphasizes the intricate interaction between gender, spirituality, and cultural legacy in the field of literary studies.

Another notable publication is a paper authored by Guzman from San Francisco State University, the United States, which was published in Punishment and Society in 2020. This study offers a comprehensive analysis of how middle-class members of a congregation exert authority over marginalized individuals involved in gendered manual labor and public displays of their criminalized status in return for essential provisions such as housing, sustenance, and religious participation. This work then introduces Guzman's idea of "spiritual supervision" as a new theoretical framework to investigate how institutional objectives and practices are penetrated by the impacts of the carceral state. These institutions, although seeking to rehabilitate, inadvertently perpetuate racist, gendered, and classed inequalities, further stigmatizing and controlling criminalized individuals. As a kind of punishment that operates beyond the official criminal justice institutions, spiritual supervision provides a unique lens to explore how carceral control shapes spiritual and religious landscapes.

5. Keywords Co-Occurrences

A total of 238 keywords were identified from the examination of 34 works on the topic of gender and spirituality in literary studies. These papers were published between 2014 and 2023, and the keyword data was obtained from Scopus. The examination of the co-occurrences of these phrases uncovers intriguing patterns. When the minimal threshold for co-occurrences was set to three, only six keyword pairings satisfied this criterion, indicating a relatively limited degree of topic overlap across the majority of the articles. Nevertheless, when the threshold was reduced to a minimum of

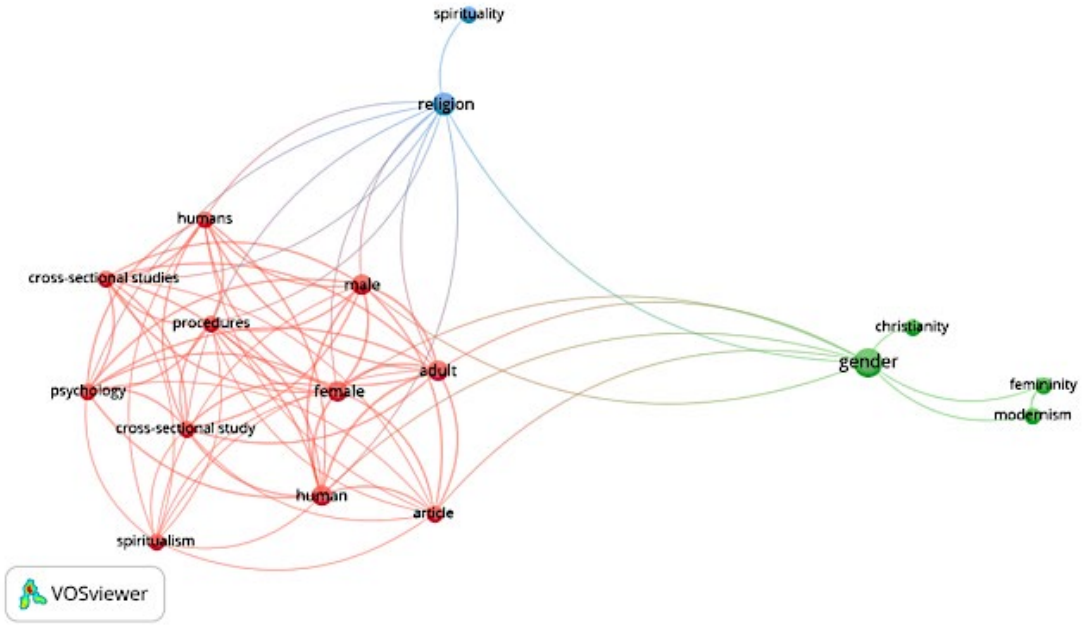
two instances of co-occurrence, the number of keyword pairs that met the criteria significantly increased to 28. This demonstrates a more extensive but still limited interconnection of concepts across the many works. These findings not only highlight significant areas of convergence that could perhaps propose emerging trends or focal points in the discourse on gender and spirituality in literary studies, but they also demonstrate the diversity of research that is conducted within the subject.

Table 5. Keywords Clusters in the Scopus Database

Cluster	Keywords	Research Trends
1	Adult, article, cross-sectional studies, cross-sectional study, female, human, humans, male, procedures, psychology, spiritualism	Gender-based experiences and practices
2	Christianity, femininity, gender, modernism	Gender-based concepts
3	Religion, spirituality	Religion and spirituality

Gender-based experiences and practices, gender-based conceptions, and religion and spirituality are the three main study trends that are represented in the above table (Table 5), which categorizes terms found in bibliographic material. Every cluster symbolizes a specific thematic focus within the broader subject of gender and spirituality in the field of literary studies. Nevertheless, a noteworthy finding from the table is the need for significant associations between these clusters and phrases related to literary studies. For example, the terms "literature" and "novel" are present as individual units without any connections to other terms within the same cluster or across several clusters. It underscores a potential deficiency in the existing body of literature that combines these study patterns with literary analysis. The absence of intersectionality among these categories and the three identified research trends suggests an area of study that needs to be better examined. This gap provides an opportunity for future researchers to fill this void and take part in improving a better understanding of the interconnection between gender and spirituality.

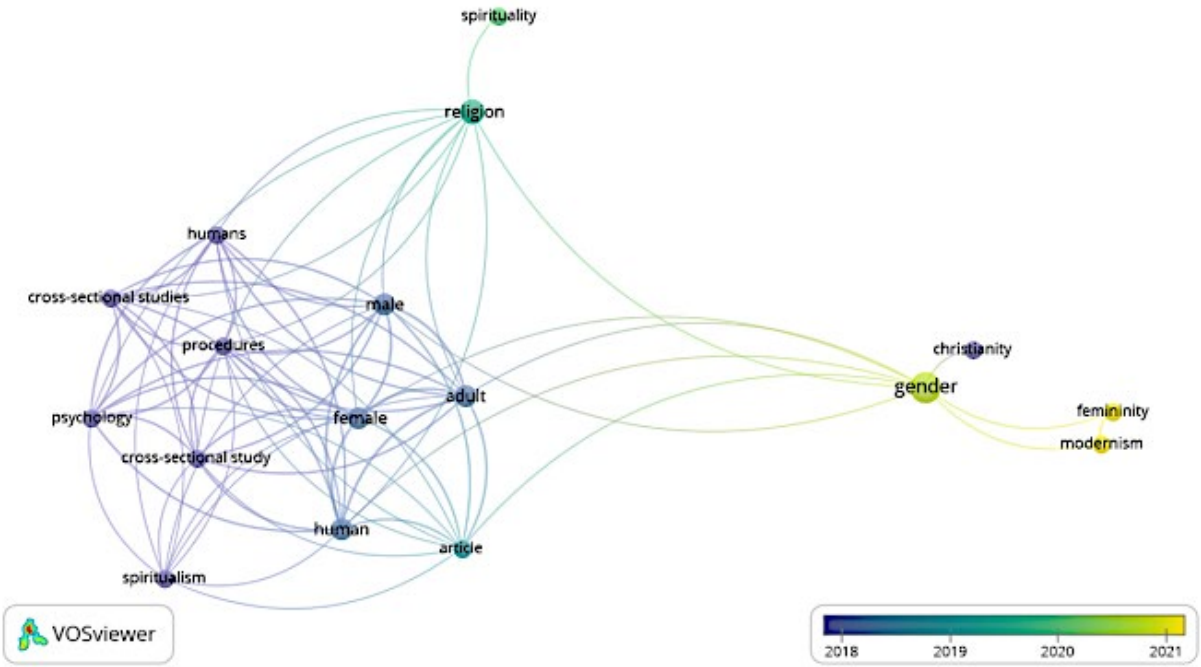
Figure 3. VOSviewer Visualization of Keywords Co-Occurrences Based on the Scopus Database



The above-displayed network visualization (Figure 3) provides information about a depiction of the interconnections among the three identified clusters: Gender-based experiences and practices (red lines), Gender-based concepts (green lines), and Religion and spirituality (blue lines). Although each cluster represents their research that focuses on specific themes, the overall visualization highlights the inherent interaction and overlap among different study areas. The interconnected networks indicate that while each cluster inquires about a particular aspect of gender and spirituality, they are not isolated scopes of research. Instead, they contribute to a complex network of ideas and concepts that enrich our understanding of the topic. This viable interaction suggests the emergence of an interdisciplinary perspective transcending the boundaries of these clusters, which leads to a nuanced view of the relationship between gender and spirituality in literary studies.

Based on a comprehensive and detailed exploration of the above link (Figure 3) provided by VOSviewer, the term relationships within and across clusters reveal fascinating patterns. It associates with other words only within Cluster 1 and nowhere else. It should point towards strong thematic coherence and, at the same time, display weak or no interdisciplinary affinities. In fact, it also appears, for instance, that the term "femininity" in Cluster 2 only corresponds with "gender" and "modernity," and has no relation to the other clusters either. Similarly, in Cluster 3, the thematic field of "spirituality" corresponds semantically only with the term "religion." The fact that these terms connect to any other cluster underlines that, even though every cluster is thematically dense, there may need to be a more thorough probing at the intersection of these themes. The absence of such links might arguably point to research opportunities that would investigate such "white spots" and thus create a more rounded view of the relation between gender and spirituality in literary studies.

Figure 4. VOSviewer Visualization of Keywords Appearances by Year Based on the Scopus Database



The above illustrating network analysis of the presentation of term clusters reveals a significant gap in the term cluster in the study of gender and spirituality within literary studies. The gap includes the issues of how male and female authors depict spiritual experiences in literary works. The absence of literature-related keywords in these clusters definitely shows a limitation of integration between literary criticism and interdisciplinary discussions focusing on gender and spirituality. This observation opens a promising area for further exploration. Moreover, relevant keywords that are associated with gender and spirituality predominantly remain isolated and stay apart within their respective clusters, like the term "spirituality," which stands distinct from other keywords. This isolated keyword network underscores a lack of interdisciplinary exploration into the relationship between spirituality, gender, and literature. It proves that this intricate connection has not been thoroughly examined.

In addition, the generated overlay visualization by VOSviewer above (Figure 4) provides information on the latest publications. The latest papers listed in Scopus mainly focus on gender studies. On the contrary, articles discussing spirituality were more conspicuous in earlier eras. The yellow color in the picture, which represents new publications, indicates a change in the focus of study over time. It shows that the most recent publication recorded was in 2021, whereas in the last two years, there were none at all. The shortage of interdisciplinary studies on the relationship between spirituality and gender emphasizes the necessity of conducting research for a more comprehensive approach in future studies. This gap has the potential to lead to a more comprehensive understanding of the relationship between gender, spirituality, and literature. Given the limited amount of research on the above data, studying contemporary literary works that combine gender and spiritual issues becomes very important. The shifting focus of the study also implies that the area is dynamic and changing, with different themes becoming more critical over time. This trend underlines how crucial it is to conduct ongoing research and analysis in order to stay current with the shifting market trends and technological advancements.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this current research has humanly explored the triadic relation of gender, spirituality, and literary criticism to its very depths with complete bibliometric analysis using Scopus as the source of the collected data. It applies the VOSviewer tool to identify the pattern of co-occurrence with keywords, author affiliations, and institutional affiliations that have or should have influenced the adoption of an interdisciplinary approach to gender and spirituality in literary criticism from 2014 to 2023. From the evidence above, there is a limitation in the number of articles and writers that the cooperative study has concerning these issues. This, in turn, means that while a flurry of increased interest surrounds the investigation of the interrelation between gender, spirituality, and literary criticism, this very subject is one of the most fledgling. A publication and partnership bias underlines further research and collaboration in this area that might result in a fuller and deeper understanding of these complex interrelationships.

Within the corpus of related articles, very few have taken up the issue of examining gender and spirituality within literary works. Most scholars seem to be attracted to those topics revolving around gender and spirituality in various other disciplines. Besides, the number of authors, affiliations, and countries collaborating is evident, and only some have actually participated in such interdisciplinary research. Literature studies with gender-overlapping spirituality need more representation, both in terms of researchers and research, especially in the number of citations related to literary criticism. Therefore, future research is likely to gain a lot from interdisciplinary approaches when considering examining the intertwining of spirituality and gender in literature, more so in fiction. This study has the potential to fill the current gap and enhance our understanding of the complex interconnections, expanding the field and shaping future directions in literary studies.

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