

Bibliometric analysis of research trends in islamic family law and counseling: a global perspective (1988–2024)

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Abstract

This study aims to identify and analyze research trends in Islamic family law and counseling from 1988 to 2024 using a bibliometric approach. Islamic family law is an important branch of Islamic law that has a direct influence on the social, spiritual, and psychological life of Muslims. In the face of global social changes, such as secularization, family value shifts, and issues of gender justice and child protection, a more contextual understanding of the application of Islamic family law is needed. In this context, a counseling approach emerged as an important alternative to accommodating the emotional, psychosocial, and spiritual needs of Muslim families. This study analyzed 229 documents taken from the Scopus database, then filtered them through a systematic approach until 17 relevant major publications were obtained. Analysis was conducted with the help of VOSviewer and RStudio software to map keywords, thematic relationships, and collaboration networks between authors and journals. Research results show that the dominant issues that arise include child marriage, polygamy, inheritance, women's rights, family mediation, and interfaith marriage. Thematic cluster visualization highlights five main focuses in the discussion of Islamic family law that are interconnected with contemporary social and cultural issues. This study asserts that the integration between Islamic legal norms and counseling approaches can strengthen the resilience of Muslim families, as well as provide solutions that are not only legal-formal, but also empathic, adaptive, and sustainable. This finding is expected to be the basis for the development of Islamic law that is more responsive to the dynamics of modern society.

INTRODUCTION

Islamic family law is a branch of Islamic law that has a direct influence on the social and spiritual life of Muslims (Ahmad, 1974; An-Na'im, 2002; Rehman, 2007). Social, cultural, and political developments in various countries have called for adjustments to the implementation of Islamic family law, especially in the face of contemporary challenges such as globalization, secularization, and changes in family structure. The study of Khalfaoui, (2020) in Germany reveals how Muslims in secular countries maintain the principles of classical family law while negotiating values with the national legal system. The same was

found by Al-Sharmani & Mustasaari, (2022) in Finland, reflecting how Islamic family law is not only applied in a normative framework but also influenced by individual welfare and rights factors.

In Indonesia and Southeast Asia, Islamic family law faces considerable internal challenges, such as child marriage, polygamy practices, and the issue of child status out of wedlock. Research by Aziz et al., (2023) in Thailand shows how religious norms are still used to justify the practice of child marriage. Meanwhile, (Muzakir, (2022) highlights the issue of inheritance rights for nasabiyyah children born out of wedlock, which raises the debate between sharia norms and social justice principles. This phenomenon shows the importance of a more contextual approach to reformulating Islamic family law.

In the context of Indonesian law, the article by Wirastri & Van Huis, (2021) highlighted the legal dilemma of polygamy that did not go through religious judicial procedures, while Musarrofa et al., (2019) underscored the importance of the renewal of the Compilation of Islamic Law to be relevant to the development of technology and the needs of modern society. This evidence suggests that Islamic family law cannot be stagnant but must continue to evolve in response to the changing times. The approach of al-sharī'ah and maqāṣid al-sharī'ah became important as the basis for the renewal of the law, as emphasized in the study of Yuhasnibar & Wati, (2023) on the practice of talak three and in the study of Naimah et al., (2022) regarding custody of children in different religious marriages.

Studies like the one by Ilyas et al., (2023) Aniroh et al. shed light on various aspects of gender inheritance and justice. He opened a new discussion on the concept of bilateral inheritance in Islamic law as an attempt to create equality in Muslim families. On the other hand, Saiin et al., (2023) shows how the diversity of qira'at in the verses of family law can influence the interpretation and application of law in modern legal systems. The Rahman et al., (2022) article also discusses the economic aspects of the family within the framework of Islamic law discussing the productive dowry as a means of empowering women in marriage.

Historical studies conducted by Grenier, (2021) have shown that family law transformation is not a new phenomenon. In the writings of Ömer Nasuhi Bilmen in the Ottoman Caliphate, it is seen that the modernization of family law has been part of the discourse of Islamic scholarship since the early 20th century. In line with that, Khalfaoui & Jones, (2020) also emphasized that Islamic law should continue to play an active role in protecting children's rights, especially in the ever-changing social conditions. This approach suggests that the legal dynamics of Islamic families need to be evaluated not only on the side of positive law but also on the humanitarian and social protection dimensions.

From above, it can be seen that the problem of Islamic family law cannot be separated from the psychosocial and emotional aspects of individuals and families. This is where counseling approaches are involved in efforts to strengthen relationships between family members, overcome domestic conflicts, and provide more complete spiritual and legal understanding (Aminah & Sugitanata, 2022; Daneshpour, 1998; Nasution & Nasution, 2021). Islamic family counseling approaches provide a dialogue space between legal and individual psychological needs, especially in the face of problems such as divorce, custody, and domestic violence. Therefore, the study of Islamic family law ideally focuses not only on normative formulation but also involves the dimension of counseling in the implementation process.

In examining the development of Islamic family law and counseling, it is important to see how research trends in this field develop over time. Analysis of academic literature that has been published over the past decades allows us to map dominant topics, author collaboration, and thematic direction in Islamic family law discussions and counseling. Therefore, the purpose of this study is to explore trends and intellectual maps in the study of Islamic family law and counseling from 1988 to 2024 using bibliometric analysis methods. Through this approach, research gaps can be found while also providing direction for more integrative and practical development of Islamic family law studies in the future.

METHODS

Various terms have been used in literature to refer to studies that explore the related laws of Islamic families, including systematic review, bibliometric analysis, scientometrics, and classical literature review. Nevertheless, the application of bibliometric analysis is still relatively limited, especially in the context of trends in Islamic family law and counseling. This condition opens up opportunities for studies that examine previous studies using bibliometric approaches to gain a more comprehensive understanding of trends and developmental dynamics in the field.

In the practice of bibliometric analysis in the field of science, workflows generally include several main stages: data collection, pre-processing, network extraction, normalization, analytical mapping, and visualization (Noyons et al., 1999; Peters & Van Raan, 1993). The initial phase begins with the data collection process, which then continues with preprocessing based on statistical data from the Scopus database. In this study, an analysis was conducted on 229 publications obtained from 1988 to 2024. At this stage, we identify temporal trends, particularly the number of journal articles commonly used as reference sources.

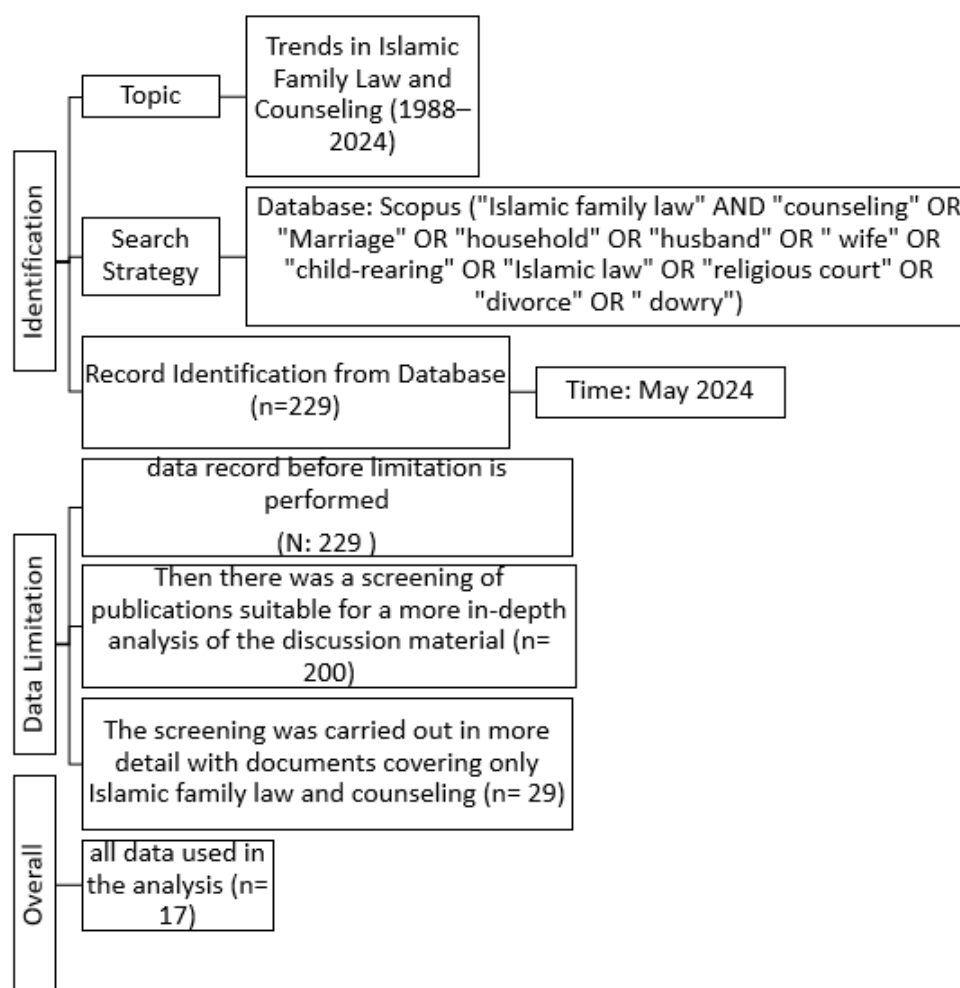


Figure 1 <Customized Search Strategies based on PRISMA Process Flow (Page et al., 2021)>

Subsequently, a network extraction process was carried out as part of scientific mapping analysis and visualization of relationships between bibliographic data. In this stage, VOSviewer software is used to build a network of interconnectedness based on available bibliometric data (van Eck, 2010). After the network was formed, relevance score calculations were performed to identify thematic groups related to the research domain of the analyzed publications (Waltman et al., 2010). The final stage of the process is the creation of visualization maps representing the structure of the network (Eck & Waltman, 2014).

In addition to visual mapping, analysis also includes evaluation of collaboration patterns between authors as well as identification of keywords that appear most frequently and have a high degree of relatedness. This aims to reveal the main focus and direction of research development in the fields of Islamic family law and counseling.

The figure shows the flow of the data identification and selection process in the literature study themed "Trend of Islamic Family Law and Counseling (1988–2024)" conducted systematically. The process begins with a data search through Scopus's database using a combination of keywords such as "Islamic family law," "counseling," "marriage," "husband," "wife," and other relevant terms, resulting in 229 documents as of May, 2024. We conducted a preliminary screening to identify relevant publications on the study's subject, which resulted in a total of 200 documents. The next stage was a further selection of documents that specifically discussed Islamic family law and counseling, which resulted in 29 documents. Of these, only 17 documents meet the final criteria and are used in the analysis. This process reflects a systematic and gradual approach to selecting relevant literature to support the accuracy and depth of analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

At this stage, the results and discussions in the bibliometric study Trends in Islamic Family Law and Counseling focused on publication analysis that included the most productive identification of authors and journals, the most frequently used keywords, and main topics still at the center of research in this area. Using a bibliometric approach, the study found important contributions from authors and journals involved in related research and tracked how keyword trends have changed over time, showing the direction of research development. Analysis of dominant topics also allows for ever-evolving thematic mapping, providing a comprehensive picture of issues in Islamic family law and counseling that remain a major focus among academics at the global level.

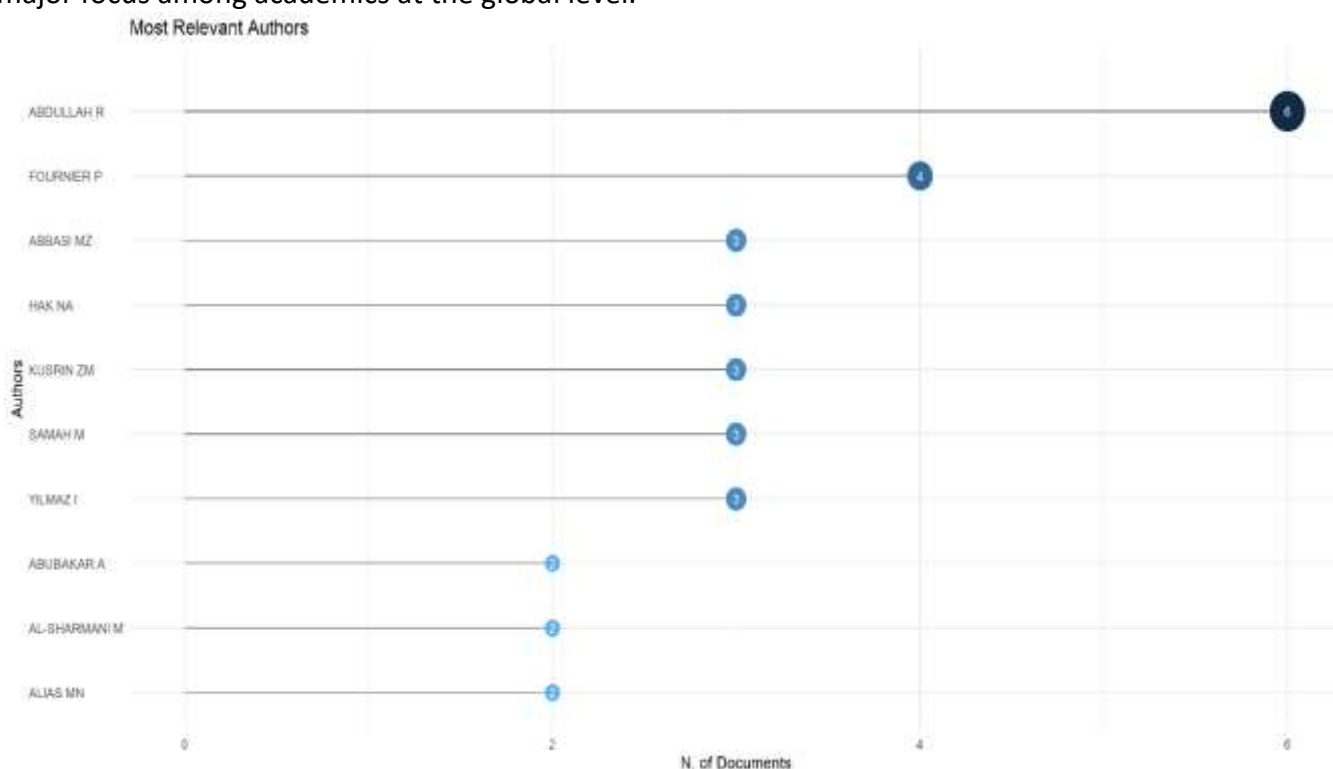


Figure 2 <Most Relevant Authors>

The figure above is a visualization of bibliometric analysis processed using RStudio, which displays a list of the most relevant authors in Islamic family law and counseling-themed research. This chart shows

the number of documents published by each of the most active authors on the topic. The author with the highest contribution was Abdullah R., who recorded 6 publications, followed by Fournier P. with 4 publications. Meanwhile, several other authors, such as Abdisa MZ, Hak NA, Kusrin ZM, and Saaman M, each have 1 document, indicating a more limited but relevant contribution within the scope of the study.

This analysis is useful for identifying key authors in the development of Islamic family law literature and counseling while providing an overview of the level of scientific productivity of researchers in the field. This information can help other researchers determine potential collaborators, understand academic networks, and further explore themes raised by authors with significant contributions. This visualization also reflects the dominance of publications by certain authors, which indicates the direction and main focus in the development of related academic discourse. After reviewing the most productive authors, the analysis continued by identifying the journals that published the most related articles. This study aims to find out the main channel for the dissemination of science in the fields of Islamic family law and counseling.

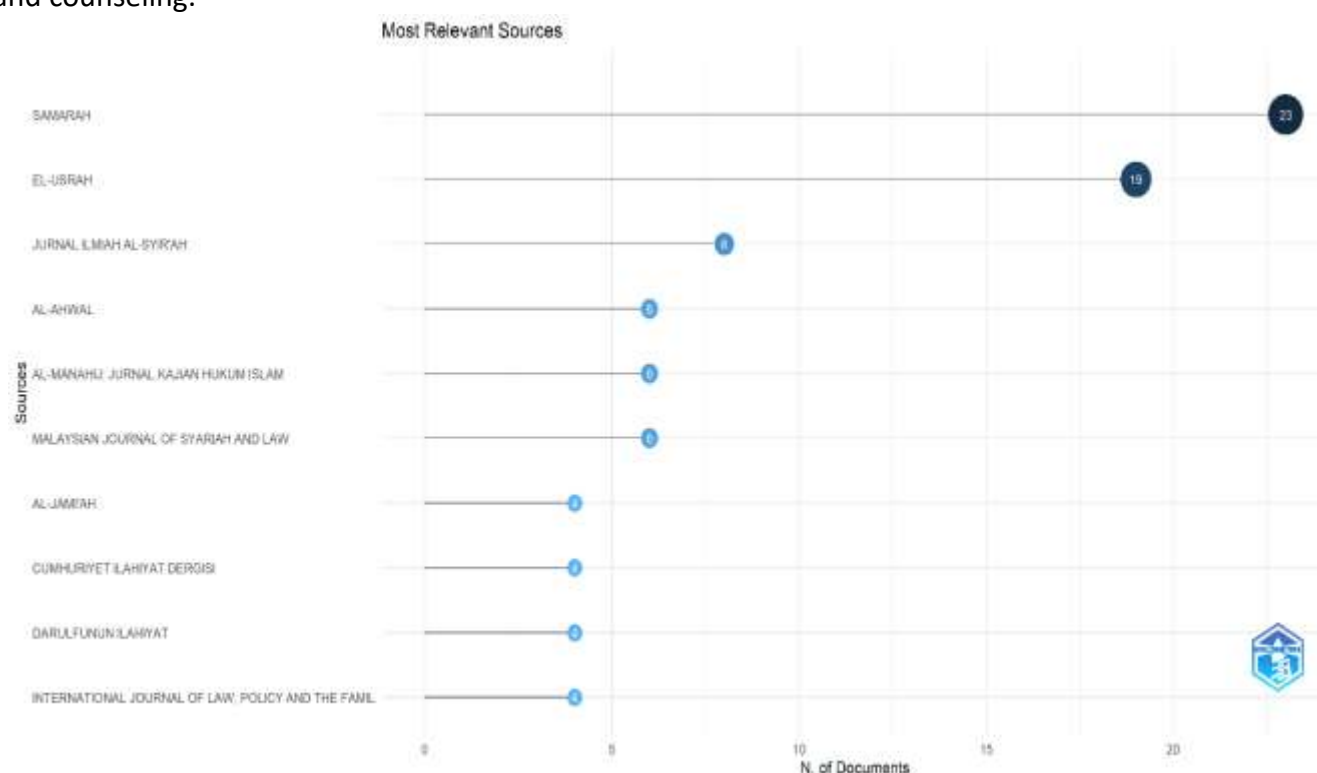


Figure 3 <Most Relevant Sources>

The above figure is a visualization of a bibliometric analysis using RStudio featuring Most Relevant Sources, the most frequently used source or journal in Islamic family law and counseling publications. From the chart, the Samarah journal ranks first as the most productive source with 23 documents, followed by El-Usrah with 19 documents. This finding suggests that both journals play a very significant role in the dissemination of knowledge and development of literature in this field of study.

In addition to the top two journals, there are several other journals that also show a high degree of relevance, such as the Al-Shir'ah Science Journal (8 documents), Al-Ahwal, Al-Manahij: Journal of Islamic Law Studies, and the Malaysian Journal of Sharia and Law, each with 6 documents. Other sources, such as Al-Jami'ah, Cumhuriyet Diviliyat Dergisi, Darulfunun Diviliyat, and the International Journal of Law, Policy, and Family, also appear with equal contributions (4 documents each). This data gives a valuable overview of the main channels of academic publication that researchers use to disseminate the results of their studies in the areas of Islamic family law and counseling and may serve as a reference for other researchers in selecting journals for subsequent publications.

This image displays a concept network visualization created with VOSviewer, which maps the relationships among various topics in the study of Islamic family law. The main topic is shown by the largest node in the center, namely Islamic family law, which is closely linked to important themes such as divorce, family law, polygamy, child marriage, and women's rights. Each node is connected by a line indicating the strength and frequency of inter-topic links in the literature. Other topics that have also emerged include inheritance, religious court, fiqh, law, and sociology of law, as well as specific issues such as interfaith marriage, adoption, and child custody. This visualization shows that the study of Islamic family law covers a broad spectrum from legal to social to cultural and is closely related to issues of gender, children's rights, and the legal system of religion.

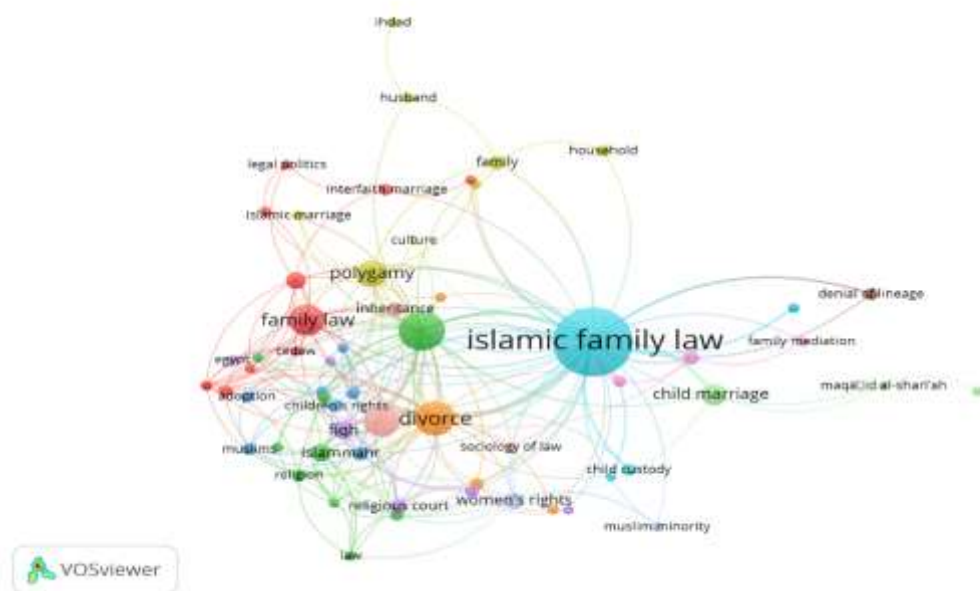


Figure 4 <Keyword Network Visualization based on Vosviewer Analysis>

The following is a detailed description of each cluster. The cluster consists of five sections, including blue, red, green, orange, and pink clusters as on Figure 5.

Based on the visualization of bibliometric analysis results using VOSviewer, it is apparent that the keyword "Islamic Family Law" is central to a wide thematic network and is linked to a wide range of social, legal, and cultural issues. Interconnected nodes are grouped into several color clusters reflecting the interconnectedness of research topics that often appear together. From this map, the most relevant clusters for further analysis in the context of Islamic family law and counseling are the blue, green, red, orange, and pink clusters.

The blue cluster highlights issues such as Muslim minorities, child custody, and family mediation, which indicate a concern for the application of Islamic family law in the context of Muslim minorities in non-Muslim countries. In this context, family counseling is important as a cross-cultural approach to resolving legal conflicts sensitive to local religious values and social contexts. Meanwhile, green clusters represent the institutional and normative dimensions of Islamic law, such as fiqh, religious court, and inheritance. This suggests that the counseling approach may serve as a companion or supplement to formal legal proceedings, such as in pre-divorce mediation or premarital counseling conducted under the supervision of religious courts.

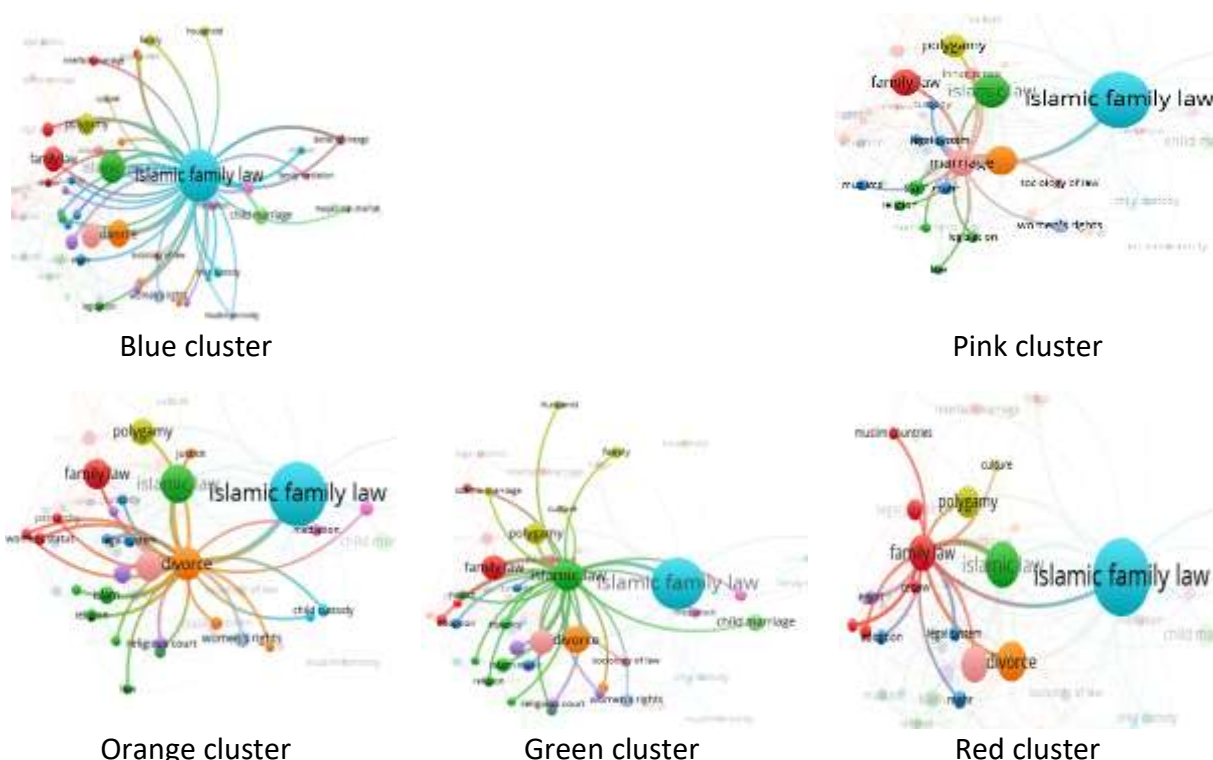


Figure 5 <Network Password based on Dominant Cluster Color>

The red cluster focuses on gender and legal political issues, including polygamy, adoption, CEDAW, and interfaith marriage. The cluster reflects the tension between Islamic legal principles and human rights values, particularly related to women and children. In this area, counseling can serve as a tool for facilitating dialogue and resolving conflicts between values, especially for individuals or families who experience legal or social discomfort due to differences in norms. Orange clusters show themes such as divorce, sociology of law, and women's rights. Its focus on the social and sociological dynamics of Islamic family law makes the cluster highly potential for counseling approaches, especially post-divorce counseling and women's empowerment in maintaining or negotiating their rights.

Finally, the pink cluster raises important issues such as child marriage and family mediation, which are closely related to child protection and family integrity. In this context, counseling can be interpreted as a preventive effort towards child marriage practices, as well to strengthen wiser decision-making in custody conflicts or household divisions. Thus, from all of this map, it appears that counseling approaches have great potential to be strategically combined with the discourse and practice of Islamic family law, both in normative, institutional, and socio-cultural contexts. This opens up very interesting research opportunities in the field of Islamic law based on humanitarian intervention and psychosocial values.

The results of a number of articles discussing Islamic family law reveal complex dynamics in the implementation of sharia principles in various countries and social contexts. The study of Khalfaoui, (2020) in Germany suggests how Muslims maintain an understanding of classical family law in a secular environment, suggesting a negotiation of values between religious norms and national law. A similar thing was seen in the study of Al-Sharmani & Mustasaari, (2022) in Finland, which highlighted the importance of religious freedom and welfare perspectives in the practice of Islamic family law. These findings indicate that Islamic family law continues to be enforced in the diaspora, albeit with contextual adaptations.

On the other hand, several articles highlight urgent issues in Muslim society, such as child marriage (Aziz et al., 2023), extramarital children (Muzakir, 2022), and the practice of polygamy that is not legally recorded (Wirastri & Van Huis, 2021). These practices suggest gaps in the legal system that require legal intervention and reform, as emphasized in the article Musarrofa et al. In 2023, he highlighted the

The approach of *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* became a red thread in an attempt to rearrange the laws of the Islamic family, as shown in the study of Naimah et al., (2022) on custody of cross-religious children, as well as Yuhasnibar & Wati, (2023) which discusses third party in the perspective of the problem. Meanwhile, the aspect of balance and justice in the inheritance system became the focus of Ilyas et al., (2023) article, which promotes a bilateral inheritance system in order to bring about gender equality. No less important, Saiin et al., (2023) article highlights the diversity of *qira'at* in the verses of family law as a factor that can influence the formulation of marriage laws in Indonesia.

All of these research results show that Islamic family law cannot be narrowly understood as a normative device alone but should be placed in a complex social, cultural, economic, and psychological framework. This is where the importance of integration between Islamic family law and counseling science is. Counseling acts as an approach that can mediate internal conflicts within the family, strengthen communication between family members, and help individuals understand and perform roles in accordance with sharia principles. This integration will provide legal solutions that are not only normatively fair but also adaptive, empathic, and sustainable in the face of the challenges of modern Muslim families.

The word cloud shown above is a visual representation of the keyword frequencies that appear most frequently in academic literature on the themes of Islamic family law and counseling. Words such as Islamism, religion, divorce, marriage, women's status, child rearing, and behavior are central to this visual map, suggesting that these topics have high intensity in global scientific discourse.

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reflects that issues of divorce and the role of women in Muslim families are of primary concern and still require further exploration, both from legal aspects and counseling approaches. In addition, keywords such as child support, behavior, economic factors, and cultural influences suggest the need for a multidisciplinary approach involving psychology, sociology, and economics in formulating a more comprehensive policy of Islamic family law.

Using this word cloud, researchers can identify research gaps, build new conceptual frameworks, or strengthen previous studies. In addition, this visualization aids in the formulation of research questions that are relevant and contextual to the needs of contemporary Muslim communities. Thus, this word cloud is not just a visualization tool but also a preliminary map for the development of the strategic direction of research in the fields of Islamic family law and counseling.

CONCLUSIONS

Based on bibliometric analysis of 229 publications from 1988 to 2024, studies of Islamic family law and counseling showed significant developments, both on the thematic and methodological sides. The study identifies that major issues of concern include child marriage, polygamy, inheritance, child custody, and interaction between Islamic law and modern values such as gender equality and the protection of children's rights. The approach of the *maqāṣid al-sharī'ah* and its problems became important foundations in response to social and legal changes. In addition, the emergence of ideas such as bilateral inheritance and productive dowry suggests justice-oriented legal innovation and empowerment within Muslim families. Furthermore, this study emphasized the importance of integration between Islamic family law and counseling approaches. Islamic family counseling plays a role in bridging the tension between legal norms and psychological and social needs of individuals and families. This approach is considered effective in dealing with issues of divorce, custody, and domestic violence, as well as strengthening family relations. Thematic mapping with VOSviewer also shows that topics such as women's rights, cross-religious marriages, and family mediation are important knots in this discussion. Therefore, this study opens up great opportunities for the development of more holistic and humanistic Islamic law through cross-disciplinary collaboration between law, psychology, and sociology.

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