Trends and Patterns on Religious Intolerance Research: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract

Numerous academics worldwide have been conducting research on religious intolerance (RI), and the level of work has increased since the 1990s. However, no prior research has employed bibliometric analysis to map this field. The objective of the bibliometric mapping of RI entails trends of publication, top and influential journals, top citation, top and influential countries, co-authorship between the countries, top and influential institutions. Data was obtained from the WOS database and analysed using frequency through Excel. To visualise influential journal, citation, co-authorship and overall link strength, VosViewer data analysis was used. The study found a consistent rise in the publication of research on RI between 2006 and 2017, with a significant peak in 2020. Religions emerged as the most influential journal, followed by Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion and Politics and Religion. The United States leads in RI research, followed by Australia and the United Kingdom. The University of California System, University of London, and Bar Ilan University are the top-cited institutions, with Bar Ilan University being the most influential. The study highlights the dominance of Western perspectives in RI research. Therefore, future research should incorporate a more diverse range of perspectives, particularly from Asian scholars that will provide comprehensive understanding of religious intolerance on a global scale.
Keywords: Religious Intolerance, Religion, USA, Western

Introduction

In the 20th century, the idea of modernization and secularization appears to have buried the essence of religion, however, the 21st century has witnessed a resurgence of religion in various spheres of life, including politics, social issues, and government policy. This counter-narrative challenges the earlier assumptions about the inevitable decline of religion in the face of modernization and therefore social scientists now must delve deeply into this topic. The secularization and modernization theories presume the steady decline or demise of religion from the public to the private sphere. That is not true, though, as religion continues to exert a strong influence on social and political life. For example the Iranian revolution of 1978–1979 was one of several significant events that highlighted the enduring importance of religion in politics and public life (Eickelman, 2015). The unexpected attack on the Twin Towers in New York on September 11, 2001 demonstrated that the Al-Qaeda group is partially responsible for the attack and that it has a religious motivation. A rapid and substantial upsurge in research on the subject of religion in international affairs was caused by the events of September 11, 2001 (Fox & Sandler 2004). The event demonstrates how a religious phenomenon could have a significant influence on the western world.

The importance of religion in international relations, diplomacy, economic development, and globalization were some of the topics covered by this sudden flurry of research that goes beyond the particular event that instantaneously connects to September 11. For example internal events such as discrimination against the Muslim after 8 years of terrorist attack on 9/11 showed that Muslims were facing more discrimination inside the U.S. than other major religious groups. Nearly six-in-ten adults (58%) say that Muslims are subject to a lot of discrimination, far more than say the same about Jews, evangelical Christians, Mormons or even atheists (PEW Research Centre, 2009).

The topic of such discrimination based on religion has gained public attention and has to be tracked worldwide and added to the international agenda. According to a PEW Research Center analysis, since 2007, there has been an increase in religious intolerance worldwide. Both governmental restrictions on religion and personal attacks against social groups might be blamed for this trend. Around the world, there are now much more laws, regulations, and acts by state officials that restrict religious beliefs and practices. Reported by PEW since 2007, there has been an increase in social hostilities related to religion including violence and harassment by private persons, organisations, or groups (PEW Research Centre, 2019).

Some states implement laws that seem to oppress and restrict religious movement. Governmental constraints can take many different forms. However, laws and regulations that restrict religious freedom, including forcing religious organizations to register in order to operate, are the most prevalent sorts of restrictions globally. For instance, European countries like France, Belgium, and Italy implemented legislation outlawing the Muslim burqa and niqab, which are regarded to be an infringement on their citizens' right to conscientiously practice their religion (Nussbaum, 2021). The majority of European governments use the secularism argument that has been ingrained in the public sphere to defend their policies.

While in South East Asia, the situation is largely contrary to the West because most Southeast Asians' private and public identities are so intricately connected with their religious practices that their worldviews are inexorably connected to their ethnicity, politics, economy, and way

of life. Consequently, indigenous animist religion has a great influence on faiths, resulting in religious hybrids that frequently defy precise classification. Because religious identification and ethnic identity are often interwoven in Southeast Asia, ethnicity plays a role in religious conflict. Accordingly, conflict in Southeast Asia between adherents of the same faith was frequent long before colonial conquests. For instance, maritime Sultanates, tiny Muslim states, and mainland Theravada kingdoms and states were frequently at odds with one another (Kosuta, 2017). In other words this interconnectedness leads to hybrid religious forms that defy simple categorization and its complexities.

Then, under the protection of the kings, European colonists began to arrive in Southeast Asia, first the Portuguese in the 16th century, Dutch in the 17th century, then the French, British, and Americans. The Dutch East India Company initially did nothing more than suppress Catholicism and provide for its own Protestant denomination in the 17th and 18th centuries, but in the 19th century, Dutch Protestant missions spread widely throughout what is now Indonesia. Despite the British establishing themselves at the close of the 18th century, Christianity existed both in its Protestant and Catholic forms (Roxborogh, 1995).

Despite the struggle to propagate Christianity across the European colonies, local leaders and inhabitants reacted negatively to colonial political power. The native population waged confrontation against the colonial power through its cultural and religious movements. Religion and culture both had an impact on people's perceptions of national identity. Resistance against the colonial during the independence provides religious markers/spirit for identity formation. This will provide resistance for locals/indigenous. Numerous religious movements existed throughout the colonial era. As an illustration, The Young Men's Buddhist Association (1906–1920) rose to prominence in the struggle for Burmese rights of the people against the British Government in British Burma in 1906 (Oo, 2011), as well as the Sarekat Islam in Indonesia in 1912. This act by the colonial government shows that the "struggle to propagate Christianity" implies a forceful attempt to impose a foreign religion on indigenous populations. This can be seen as a form of religious intolerance, as it disregards the existing religious beliefs and practices of the local people.

Following World War II, many Southeast Asian countries gained independence from colonial rule. This led to challenges for minority groups, such as the Straits Chinese in Malaysia (i.e. Penang, Dinding, Malacca, and Singapore) and the Moluccan Christians in Indonesia. These communities sought to maintain their distinct identities and privileges in the newly formed nations, often facing religious and ethnic tensions. Similar circumstances involved Muslim minority communities who wanted to break away from predominantly Buddhist like Myanmar, Thailand or from Christian nations such as Philippines and who had ethno-religious compatriot majorities in countries like Malaysia that were located just across the new postcolonial borders (Kosuta, 2017).

Conflicts that ensued often revolved around issues of ethnicity and religion. This happens regularly in Asia since ethnic and religious identities are typically intertwined in Southeast Asia countries. According to PEW (2023) report, many Asian countries such as Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Malaysia describe religion (i.e. Buddhism and Islam) as a culture, family tradition or ethnicity and in some ways religion are links to national identity in these countries. Interestingly all of these countries also favor high-profile roles for religious leaders

in politics. Thus these dynamic links between religion and the state, national identity or identity politics encourage authors to write and publish on issues such as conflicts, discrimination, tolerance, intolerance, politics, governance and etc. that are correlated to religion especially in southeast Asian countries.

Post colonialism especially in South East Asia has formed and molded each country based on the state ideology. Some still struggle to form a nation state and some countries are still under the regime rulers. Institutions such as the Human Right Resource Centre have been engaged in the protection and promotion of human rights and documented the event of violation of human right in terms of freedom of religion especially vulnerable groups such as minorities in ASEAN countries. States where significant violent religious persecution has been documented. According to the country reports, violent religious persecution has been documented in several ASEAN states, namely Myanmar, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. Religious intolerance was transpired in many forms such as religious persecution toward the minorities. These tensions are often aggravated if the government sides with one group or another. While some of the conflicts take the form of outright violent clashes between opposing religious groups, resulting in physical harm, others have taken the form of attacks or vandalism against religious symbols, sites, or institutions (Human Rights Resource Centre, 2015)

For a general pattern, a study by Fox (2007) on religious discrimination in a global survey of 175 states found that there is unquestionably variation among specific patterns of discrimination, either within and between religious traditions, such as the state may protect its indigenous culture from outside influence, fear of the religious minorities that would challenge the state itself, state surveillance and limiting religion they perceived dangerous, or the states may link religion to identity issues. All the above historical events encourage academia to discuss and produce literature on the influence and effects of religion on every part of human life in the modern world.

There are two ways to observe an act of intolerance: physically and non-physically (Ezirim, 2021; Dauda, 2020). Non-physical intolerance can include, for instance, state-enacted laws prohibiting the wearing of headscarves, burqas, or other religious symbols in public spaces in various European nations. Or the government interfered with religious activity by outlawing particular religious practices, restricting access to places of worship, or refusing to issue licenses for religious events or structures. While some forms of governmental discrimination against religious organizations, such as demolishing property, imprisoning or arresting members of those organizations, forcing them to move frequently, abusing them physically, and even killing them, can be regarded as physical intolerance.

As opposed to religious tolerance, religious intolerance defines "intolerance and discrimination based on religion or belief" as any distinction, exclusion, restriction, or preference based on religion or belief that aims to limit or prevent someone from enjoying their human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis, UNHR (1981). Thus, RI can manifest in a variety of ways, such as discrimination for example, denying people jobs, housing, or education because of their religion. Violence acts which can range from harassment and intimidation to physical assault and murder or hate speech in any form of communication that attacks a person or group on the basis of their religion.

The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview related to academic writing on religious intolerance in the global literature using a bibliometric analysis approach.

The objectives of the research are:
- To describe the publication trends on RI.
- To identify the most productive and influential journal on RI
- To determine the most influential countries publications on RI
- To determine the co-authorship collaboration by country on RI
- To identify the top and influential institutions on RI

In this study, a bibliometric approach was used to map the literature on the phenomena of religious intolerance worldwide between the period 2000 and 2022 i.e. last 22 years. Since there was no study that has examined the publications associated with the negative aspects of religion i.e. religious intolerance over an extended period of time, the present study attempts to fill this gap.

Literature Review
Previous studies on bibliometric analysis on religion tend to focus on aspects of religiosity and demographic factors, religious tourism and culture and heritage. For example the paper published by Azancot-Chocrón et al. (2022), on the subject of religiosity and its relationship with aspects of social life such as age, ethnicity, or gender over the course of the past 25 years, discovered that there has been an increase in the number of publications since 1997, with the USA accounting for the majority of publication countries. Most of the studies of religiosity were published in a leading Journal of Homosexuality. The progressive growth of research in this field on religiosity continues to grow, manifesting a relevance that should encourage further deepening and scientific production around the concept of religiosity.

Similarly in the field of religious tourism, there has been a constant increase in the annual volume of studies, reaching the most significant figure in 2016 and the United States stands at the forefront of research on religious tourism. According to a yearly increase in the number of citations, publications on religious tourism are currently in an exponential growth stage (Durán-Sánchez et al. 2018). Similar to other disciplines, the rise in publications over the past ten years can be attributed to two factors: first, the exponential growth in the global researcher population has also led to an increase in journal submissions; and second, technological advancements in computers and the Internet have made it easier to access more recent sources of information in every field (Merigó et al. 2015).

While study by Carey et al. (2023), in the field of religion and health using bibliometric analysis to analyze the publication of Journal of Religion and Health (JOHR) in the past sixty years shows that the experienced significant increase in the number of publications from 238 during 1961–1970 to 1844 publications during 2011–2021. Prominent author and leading country with the most publications is the United State. When looking at the co-authorship between the countries the result shows that the country network is associated with JORH authors led by the United States, Saudi Arabia and the United Kingdom.

Many studies also focus on specific religion and its influence on global literatures. For example, a study by Özcelik (2022), on the topic of "Political Islam" a bibliometric analysis of the literature found that the United State has the highest publications and the publications on the topic of political Islam increased cumulatively from 1980 to 2022. Georgetown University was the institution with the most publications. The most published journal is Insight Turkey, and Emmanuel Karagiannis had the most publications. The increase in academic writing is focusing on issues such as religion–state relationship, the course of political Islam in Turkey, fundamentalism and the relationship between women, Islamism and democracy. While the collaboration network of the countries found that the United States also maintains its centrality in this network map with the U.K. and Turkey and the number of publications from institutions, Georgetown University in the United States has the most studies.

Religious tolerance or religious moderation study became a trend in Indonesia due to its diversity, including various races, languages, faiths, cultures, and socioeconomic positions. Moderation in religion encourages multiculturalism and creates a tolerant, peaceful, and harmonious environment in society as well as in religion (Dodego & Witro, 2020). A study by Prahesti's (2020), bibliometric examination of religious moderation in 2022 revealed that the trend of publications was irregular between 2020 and 2022, it is calculated to fluctuate where researchers rarely write about the concept of moderation in 2022.

According to Harianto's (2022), bibliometric analysis of the literature on religious moderation, the year 2021 saw the highest number of publications on the subject. Again, the scope of study was only confined to Indonesian research on the topic of moderation; no international research was conducted. However, the distribution of the document by country shows that Indonesia has the most articles on religious moderation published compared to the U.K., United States, Australia, Brunei and Singapore.

Studies by Hassan (2023), on religious moderation in education, a bibliometrics analysis shows that the trends of publication between 2003 to 2023 has been a significant increase shows that research topics on religion and education are increasingly relevant and interesting to the academic community. Indonesia has the highest number of publications followed by the United States. Researchers in Indonesia have a deep interest in understanding and developing the concept of unity through education and religious moderation in the context of diversity that exists in Indonesia.

Alongside religious moderation and tolerance, interfaith dialogue has also evolved into one of the most significant and fascinating activities in the modern socio-political and socio-religious global scenario due to its vital role in the peace process and peaceful interfaith relations. Saeed et al. (2021), found that Pakistani universities have produced a wide range of scholarly theses and dissertations on interfaith dialogue, religious debates, harmony, and relations. The result shows that a good number of theses on this subject of interfaith dialogues were produced from 2011 to 2015 and the majority theses were submitted for the partial fulfillments of Master degree, followed by for M.Phil/MS degrees and for PhD level degrees.

A bibliometrics study on religious conflict in Indonesia by Dida et al. (2021), discovered that the trend of publications is fluctuating with highest number of scientific publications on

religious conflict in Indonesia in 2018 indicated that there has been an increase in the escalation of conflicts and violations of religious freedom in 2017 and 2018. Two higher institutions have a highest publication on the religious conflict topics which are State Islamic Colleges and Private Islamic Colleges are higher education institutions due to the nature of the scientific tradition of the institution.

Syamsurrijal, et al. (2022), discovered that the trend of publications related to Scopus-indexed articles about identity politics increased from 2020 to 2021 with the main topic being political contestation by religious groups that draw academics to conduct publications related to issues. Identity politics has resulted in conflicts between religious communities in Indonesia and revolves around discussing two significant powers that are contesting in the public sphere dominated by religious and nationalist forces. The co-authorship network shows that Indonesian authors had publications together with several authors from various countries indicating that the USA is the highest counterpart followed by the UK.

Yumitro et al. (2023), studying the publication trends on social media and terrorism that emphasized various aspects of social media and terrorism, such as the use of Twitter in terrorist activities by using the Scopus database bibliometric analysis shows that the published documents on the topic increased steadily from 2011 and reach the peak in 2018. The distribution of published documents among different countries show that the United States had the highest number of published documents on social media and terrorism, followed by the United Kingdom. The top institution with the highest number of documents is Arizona State University, followed by The School of Information Systems.

Cyber terrorism has become more common as a result of the digital age and the spread of social media platforms. Topics on social media that highlight terrorist incidents also stimulate writers especially from the western countries to write about religious subjects. Therefore there is a need to decolonize the intellectual imperialism of this literature to incorporate local context.

While a study by Tamami et al. (2023), Islamophobia against the Muslim wearing hijab in Indonesia conducted through bibliometric analysis indicated that an annual growth rate on the publications in the field of Islamophobia from 2013 to 2023 shows a steady development. The country that published the most articles was dominated by the USA followed by the UK. The most published journals with the theme of Islamophobia are Hawwa and Culture and Religions.

Research on political Islam has increased significantly, particularly in the years following the 1980s, coinciding with challenging times for Muslims worldwide. Factors such as attacks on Muslim immigrants, xenophobia in Europe, and the American occupation of Afghanistan and Iraq and social crises experienced after the Arab Spring have contributed to this rise in academic interest. These events highlight the growing concerns about religious intolerance and its impact on global politics and society (Özcelik, 2022). Meanwhile study by Tal and Gordon (2018), on Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia show that research fields covering Anti-Semitism belong mostly to the humanities, while the literature on Islamophobia belongs mostly to the social sciences. There is a sudden rise of papers on Anti-Semitism published between 2000 and 2009. However from 2010 to 2017 the number of Islamophobia papers

surpassed those of Anti-Semitism. It could be that the massive immigration from Muslim countries to Europe, and the new waves of terrorism that threatened the West, contributed to the increase in the number of publications on the subject.

In fact, a variety of religious conflict-related topics have been investigated, including discrimination based on religion or faith in the workplace in European nations (van den Brink, 2022), religious discrimination in the workplace of current and future trends in America (Ghumman, et al. 2013), its relationships with religious discrimination and religious armed conflicts in sub-Saharan Africa (Basedau, & Schaefer-Kehnert, 2019), religious armed conflict and discrimination on the Middle East and North Africa (Fox, 2013); religious conflict, discrimination, and violence faced by minority religious communities in America (Scheitle & Howard Ecklund, 2020). Conflicts that display the type of religious intolerance experienced by individuals or religious groups have been shown to be significantly influenced by religion and politicization of religion. All the conflicts which religion became part of the element that have been discussed above lead to RI. Therefore the events of conflicts motivate the authors to discuss and to write on RI. However, there is no research that has used a bibliometric technique to map publications and research trends based on religious intolerance thus far. As a result, this study will enable us to present research that will address the knowledge void on current religious intolerance trends.

Bibliometric Analysis
A bibliometric approach was employed to analyse the literature on the topic of religious intolerance worldwide from 2000 to 2022, covering the past 22 years. The bibliometric approach utilises three tools: i) Web of Science (WoS), a database that indexes scientific and scholarly publications such as journals, proceedings, books, and data compilations. It allows for searching and analysing data. ii) Excel, a software used to convert raw data from the WoS database for further analysis in VOSviewer. Excel software also helps in creating visual tools like graphs and tables. iii) VOSviewer, a software tool used for constructing and visualizing bibliometric networks.

Data Sources and Methodology
For this study, the data was collected and retrieved from the Web of Science (WoS) database as a world's leading scientific citation (Li, et al. 2018). Keywords provided by authors of the paper and occurred for more than 5 times in the WOS core database were enrolled in the final analysis. Key words synonymous to "religious intolerance" such as "religious discrimination," as well as characteristics and sub-categories of religious intolerance such as "religious conflict"or"religious hate"or"religious crime"or"religious violence"or"religious bias"or"religious hostility"or"religious prejudice"or"religious bigotry"or"religious restriction"or"religious persecution"or"religious aggression"or"religious hate crime" were searched in the database. Based on these search keywords from a wider term of 'Topic', 2831 documents were obtained from the WOS database on the 16th of February 2023.

The timespan for this study was from 2000 to early 2023. A total of 2,831 publications were retrieved from WoS (see Figure 1). The total publications were then screened and filtered based on the following criteria: the year of publication; the type of document (articles, book reviews, book chapters, proceeding papers, editorial material, early access, review articles and books); all articles in English language; and research areas (religion, history, government

law, social sciences other topics, psychology, area studies, arts humanities other topics, international relations, literature, education educational research, philosophy and etc.) After filtering and close examination of the relevant documents 192 documents were removed, namely articles related to natural science and genetics. There were 2639 publications in total that were appropriate for use as eligible data following the screening and filtering that was done in WoS. To prevent modifications brought about by the daily updates to the database, all searches and downloads of the data were completed in a single day. Every record was exported to a notepad (as a complete record).
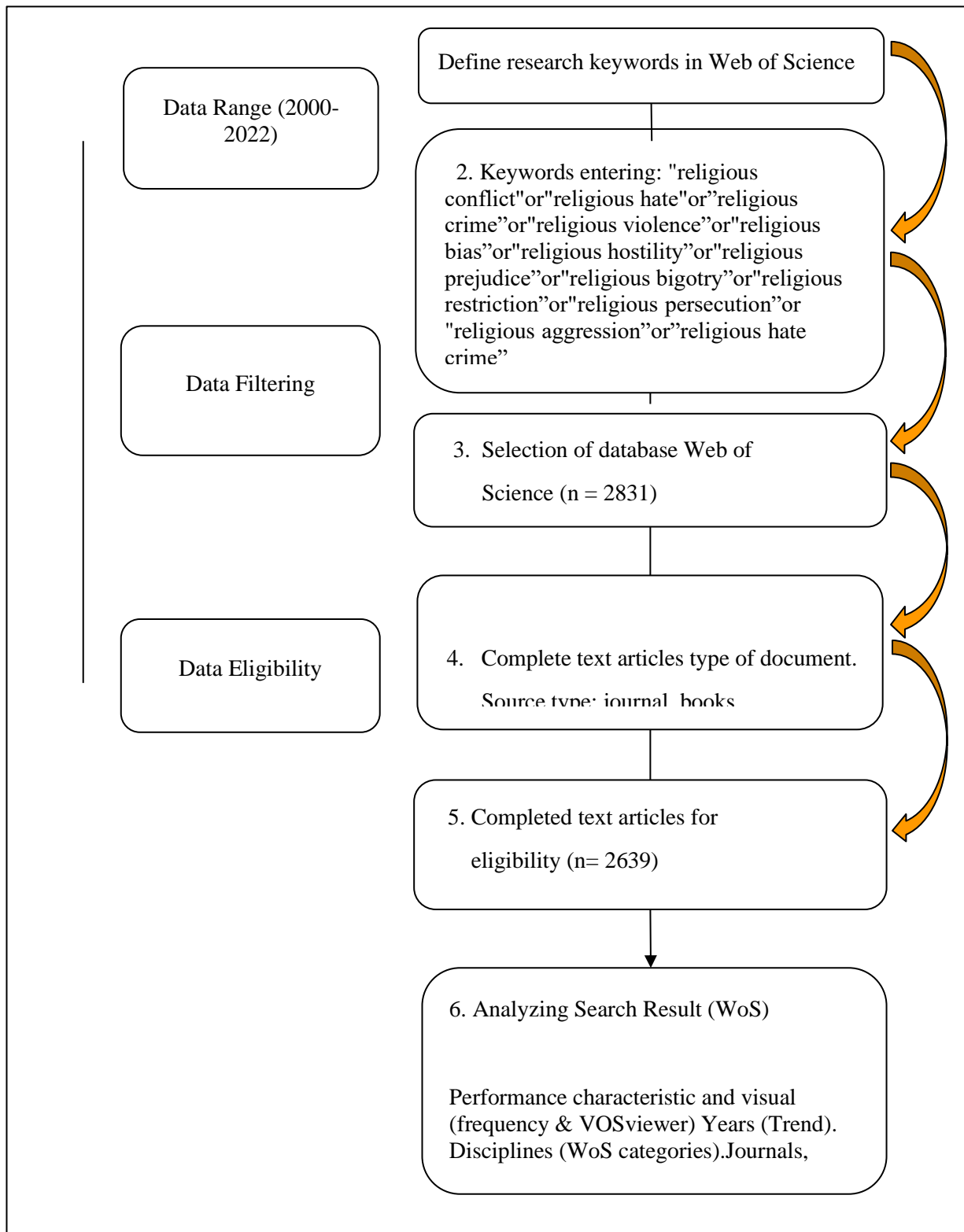
Data Range (2000-2022)

Define research keywords in Web of Science

2. Keywords entering: "religious conflict"or"religious hate"or"religious crime"or"religious violence"or"religious bias"or"religious hostility"or"religious prejudice"or"religious bigotry"or"religious restriction"or"religious persecution"or "religious aggression"or"religious hate crime"

Data Filtering

3. Selection of database Web of Science (n = 2831)

Data Eligibility

4. Complete text articles type of document. Source type: journal, books

5. Completed text articles for eligibility (n= 2639)

6. Analyzing Search Result (WoS)

Performance characteristic and visual (frequency & VOSviewer) Years (Trend). Disciplines (WoS categories).Journals,

Figure 1: Flowchart for the Bibliometric Analysis

The bibliometric process entails two streams of data analysis process (see Figure 1). The first stream involves capturing frequency of documents related to prominence characteristics of trends of publication, disciplines or web of science categories, country, institutions, and journals. In order to collect these data, firstly, several keywords associated with prominence characteristics of RI were used in the WoS platform to retrieve data. After which WoS platform will generate frequency data of the prominence characteristics in its built-in or default data

analytics, both in tabular and graphics. The frequency data from WoS is then saved into a notepad, which will later be accessed by Excel files to generate tables and graphs.

VOSviewer software was used to visualize networks and clusters such as the pattern citations, total link strength, influential journal and co-authorship collaboration by country. It permits an understanding of the influential and collaborative characteristics of publications on RI. To retrieve this data, we start by using a few keywords on the WoS platform to search for the information. Once these data are stored in notepad format, we can import them into VOSviewer and analyze them according to the topics that have been set in this study.

After obtaining both of these data from the two streams, data analysis will be elaborated for the respective elements of the study in line with the objectives as follows:
a. Trends will be elaborated by frequency of occurrence of documents.
b. The prominence, influential and collaborative characteristics of publication by journal, country, and institutions, will be attributed or elaborated in the following manner. Firstly, the prominence characteristics correspond to the frequency of occurrence of documents. Secondly, the influential characteristics are attributed to the total citation, total link strength and co-citation measures. Thirdly, the collaborative characteristics are attributed to the co-authorship measures.

Data Analysis and Result
Publication Trend on RI
According to the papers on RI in the Web of Science, there were roughly 2639 publications published between 2000 and 2023. Figure 2 below displays Microsoft Excel was used to analyze the publication's annual trend. Over a six-year period, the publication pattern can be broken down into four stages. The first phase of RI research, which ran from 2000 to 2005, saw an annual publishing of roughly 196 papers without any notable additions. This indicates that there was low social hostility involving religion at this time, nor were there many legislative or policy restrictions on religion. In contrast, the second stage saw a steady growth in RI publications from 2006 to 2011, with an estimated 624 papers published. With a steady rise in stage 3 between 2012 and 2017 and 867 articles, the trend remains mostly unchanged. The pattern demonstrates a flux in the fourth stage, which follows 2018. It peaked in 2020 with 254 articles, and then dropped to 140 publications in 2022. Based on published trends, it appears that religious intolerance has become more prevalent globally over the last 20 years, drawing the attention of academics studying RI related topics.

The post-war era initially saw a decline in academic interest in religion due to modernization and secularization. However, recent trends suggest a resurgence of religion's influence in global affairs. (Jones & Petersen, 2011). The emergence of new religious movements highlights the importance of interfaith understanding, as academics engage more deeply in religious discourse (Sidhu, 2014). The Iranian revolution of 1979 was one of the clearest examples of this.

In the 1980s, religious conservatism gained political influence in the US, while Eastern Europe, Latin America, and southern Africa witnessed more moderate roles for religious institutions in democratic transitions. (Jones & Petersen, 2011). Following the 9/11 attacks and the subsequent "war on terror," religion, particularly Islam, became a central focus in foreign and

security policies, driving academic interest in religious studies and development. Scholars continue to debate the effectiveness of liberal or authoritarian regimes in countering terrorism (Saiya and Scime, 2015), while concerns about Islamophobia and antisemitism have intensified, particularly in Europe, prompting further research (Bravo Lopez, 2011; Tal and Gordon,2018). The trends on religious intolerance research had increased in 2000 onwards based on previous events.
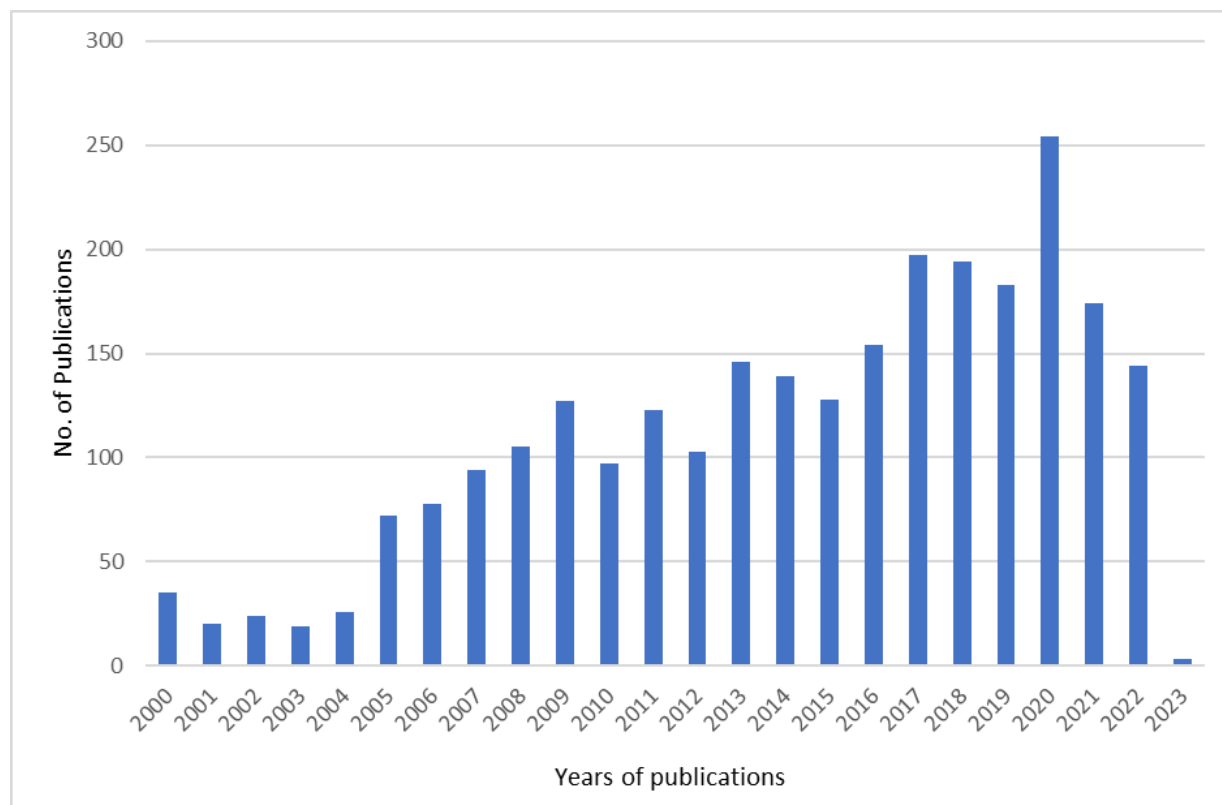

Figure 2: Trend of publications of RI 2000 - 2023 (Jan) (Microsoft Excel Data Analysis and WoS core collection, 2023)

Most Productive Journal Publication
Microsoft Excel analysis of the most widely published journal, is depicted in Figure 3. The highest publication on religious intolerance was in a Religions journal averaging 40 papers. The average number of papers published by the remaining journals ranges from 17 to 24. Issues of religious intolerance seem to be researched from religious, political, historical, and cultural perspectives. The top 3 journals that dominated on issues of RI as shown in Table 1, are Religions similar to the findings by Tamami et al. (2023), Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion and Politics and Religion. The findings also show that the top published book series is Transformation of the Classical Heritage averaging 30 books. In two book series—the Routledge Contemporary Southeast Asia series and the Religion in the America Series—an interesting feature of religious intolerance appears to have a regional significance. For example the book series of Islam, Education and Radicalism in Indonesia Instructing Piety edited by Djainudin et al. (2023), explores the connections between traditional Islamic education, rising religious intolerance, religious attitudes to gender, campaigns for curricula innovation and modernisation, and politics and society in Indonesia. Much discourse on 'Islamic Revival' has emerged since the downfall of the Suharto 'New Order' after his

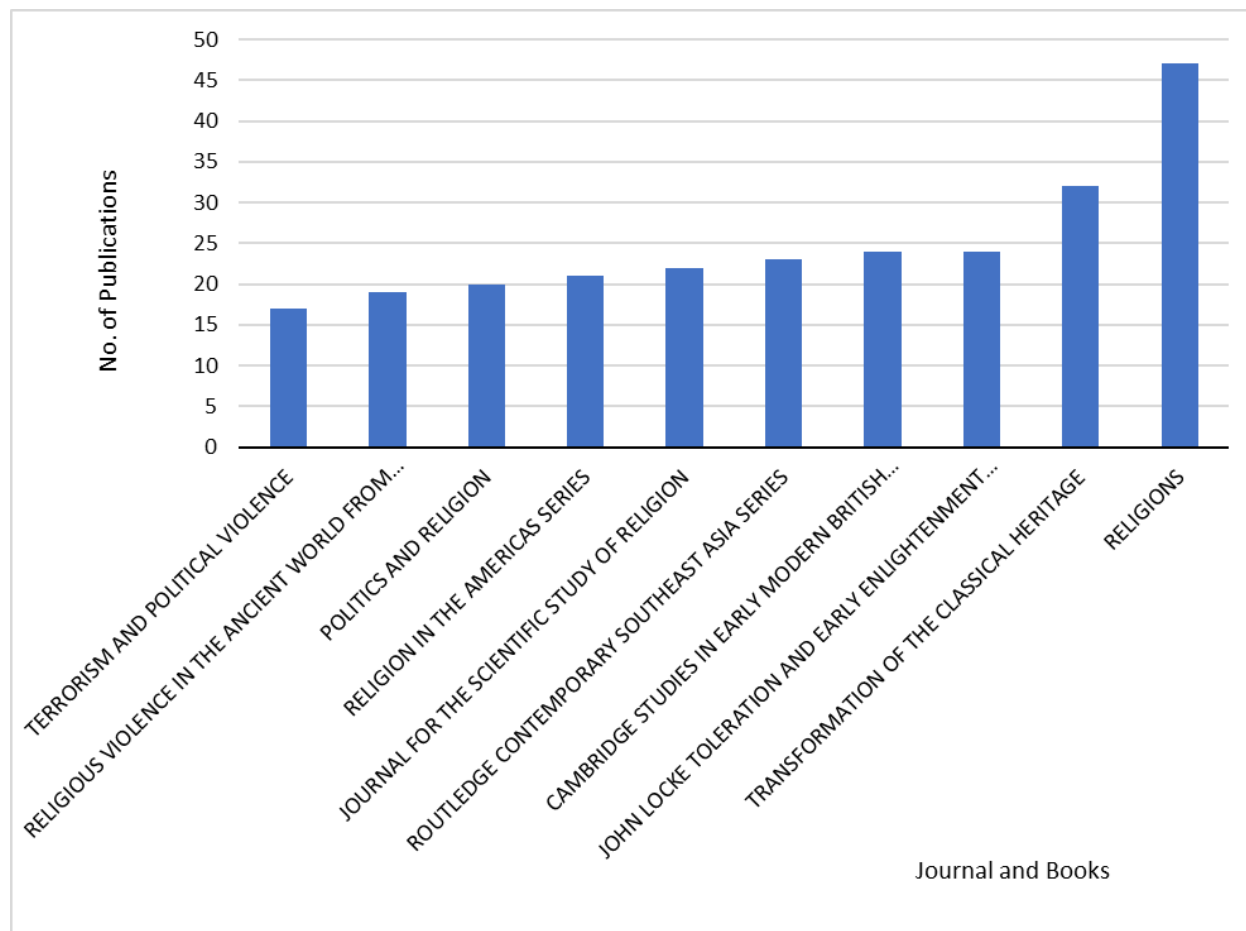resignation in 1998 and collapse of his regime due to the people's revolution against his autocratic government.

Figure 3: Top Journal Publication on RI (Microsoft Excel Data Analysis and WoS core collection, 2023)

Table 1
Top 3 Journal Publications in RI.

Journal	Documents
Religions	47
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion	22
Politics and Religion	20

(VOSviewer Data Analysis, 2023)

Most Influential Journal based on TLS
The influential journal is based on citations on RI by journals that are measured by the total link strength. From the VOSviewer citation network analysis indicates the edge thickness used to depict the total link strength, with thicker edges indicating a stronger citation connection based on the chosen weighting scheme. See Figure 4. The result shows the highest numbers are Religions with 15 total link strength (116 total citation, 47 documents), followed by

Journal for Scientific Study of Religion with 14 total link strength (336 total citations, 22 documents) and Politics and Religion with 10 total link strength (172 total citations, 20 documents). See Table 2. Figure 4 shows the cluster of connected influential sources on citation. Journal of the Scientific Study of Religion (JSSR) became a nodal center for the connectivity between the clusters because numerous academic fields, including sociology, anthropology, psychology, history, and theology, converge at JSSR. High h-index and relatively high impact factor also supports its centrality in its influence. Its multidisciplinary appeal expands its readership and increases the likelihood of citations from various fields. It draws academics from many fields who are looking for robust empirical research on religious phenomena because of its emphasis on the scientific study of religion. Nevertheless, according to the Journal Citation Reports, the journal in a year 2022 has an impact factor of 2.4, ranking it 59th out of 149 journals in the category under "Sociology." The remaining top total citation on RI from journals and books shows weak link strength (total link strength between 0 to 8), which suggests that sources are cited in silos. See Figure 4. Again the prolific authors contributed to the top 3 influential journals. For example Fox, Finke's and Mataic (2021) article on 'The Causes of Societal Discrimination against Religious Minorities in Christian-Majority Countries' as well as Fox and Finke's (2021) article on 'Ensuring Individual Rights through Institutional Freedoms: The Role of Religious Institutions in Securing Religious Rights' appeared in Religions Journal. Meanwhile Finke, Fox & Mataic (2017) article on 'Assessing the Impact of Religious Registration' appeared in Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion. Whilst Fox 's (2019) article on 'The Secular-Religious Competition Perspective in Comparative Perspective' and Fox's (2014) article on 'Is it Really God's Century? An Evaluation of Religious Support and Discrimination from 1990 to 2008' was published in Politics and Religion journal.

Table 2

The Most Influential Citation on RI based on TLS

Journal/Sources	TP	TC	**TLS**	*h - Index*	JIF	Category Quartile
1. Religions	47	116	**15**	6	0.8	Q1
2. Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion	22	336	**14**	9	2.4	Q2
3. Politics and Religion	20	172	**10**	8	1.5	Q3
4. Review of Religious Research	12	83	**8**	6	1.5	Q3
5. Terrorism and Political Violence	17	255	**8**	9	2.4	Q2
6. Sociology of Religion	8	85	**6**	4	3.1	Q1
7. Journal of Peace Research	8	192	**5**	4	3.6	Q1
8. Ethnic and Racial Studies	15	362	**2**	9	2.5	Q2
9. Plos one	5	93	**2**	4	3.7	Q2
10. Psychology of Religion and Spirituality	10	78	**2**	4	2.4	Q2

(VOSviewer Data Analysis and WoS Core Collection, 2023)
TP-Total Publications, TC-Total Citations, TLS-Total Link strength, JIF-Journal Impact Factor
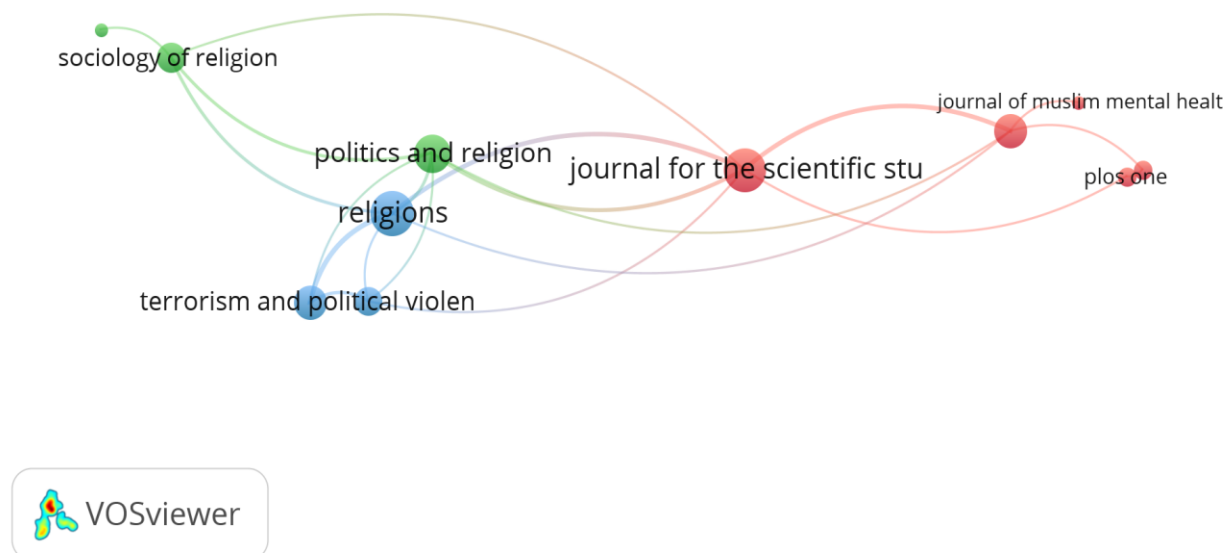

Figure 4: Visualization of the most influential journal. (VOSviewer Data Analysis, 2023)

Top Book Series
Microsoft Excel analysis also shows that an intriguing aspect of religious intolerance seems to have a regional significance, in particular two book series on the Routledge Contemporary Southeast Asia series and the Religion in the America series. The Transformation of The Classical Heritage book series dominated the discourse on RI from the perspective of historical heritage. See Figure 3 and Table 3. For example, discourses on religious persecution and conflict can be obtained from book authors such as Smith (2016), and Marshall (2006). Books such as "Constantine and the Captive Christians of Persia: Martyrdom and Religious Identity in Late Antiquity," and "John Locke, Toleration and Early Enlightenment Culture," illuminated historical patterns of religious tension, conflict, and persecution. Through an analysis of these historical processes, important lessons for the present context can be drawn about how power dynamics, resource competition, and theological differences can drive religious intolerance. Therefore analyzing these historical dynamics can offer insights into how these forces fuel religious intolerance, providing valuable cautionary lessons for the contemporary context.

Table 3
Most Books Series Published on RI topics.

Books	Documents
Transformation of The Classical Heritage	32
Cambridge Studies in Early Modern British History	24
John Locke, Toleration and Early Enlightenment Culture	24

(VOSviewer Data Analysis, 2023)

Most Influential Countries' Publications
Microsoft Excel Data Analysis shown in Figure 5 displays the top 10 countries with the greatest number of RI publications. The WoS database places the United States at the top among all nations. The country with the most publications is the United States (858), followed by the United Kingdom (266 documents), and Australia (130 documents). The religious discourse seems to benefit Anglo-Saxon nations which have shaped the literary trends globally. According to the results, the US is a leading country that encounters and considers religious issues more than three times as frequently as its closest rival, the UK.

The U.S. has become a leading center for religious studies due to factors such as strong academic institutions, a diverse religious landscape, international collaborations, significant funding, and an interdisciplinary approach. The American Academy of Religion (AAR), a prominent scholarly society, plays a crucial role to foster excellence in the academic study of religion and public understanding of religion (AAR, n.d.). In the discipline of religious studies, the Journal of the American Academy of Religion (JAAR) is widely regarded as the prominent scholarly publication. This international quarterly journal presents cutting-edge research on a wide range of religious traditions from throughout the world, together with thought-provoking analyses of the approaches used to study them. There's also a sizable and insightful book review section in every issue (JAAR, n.d)
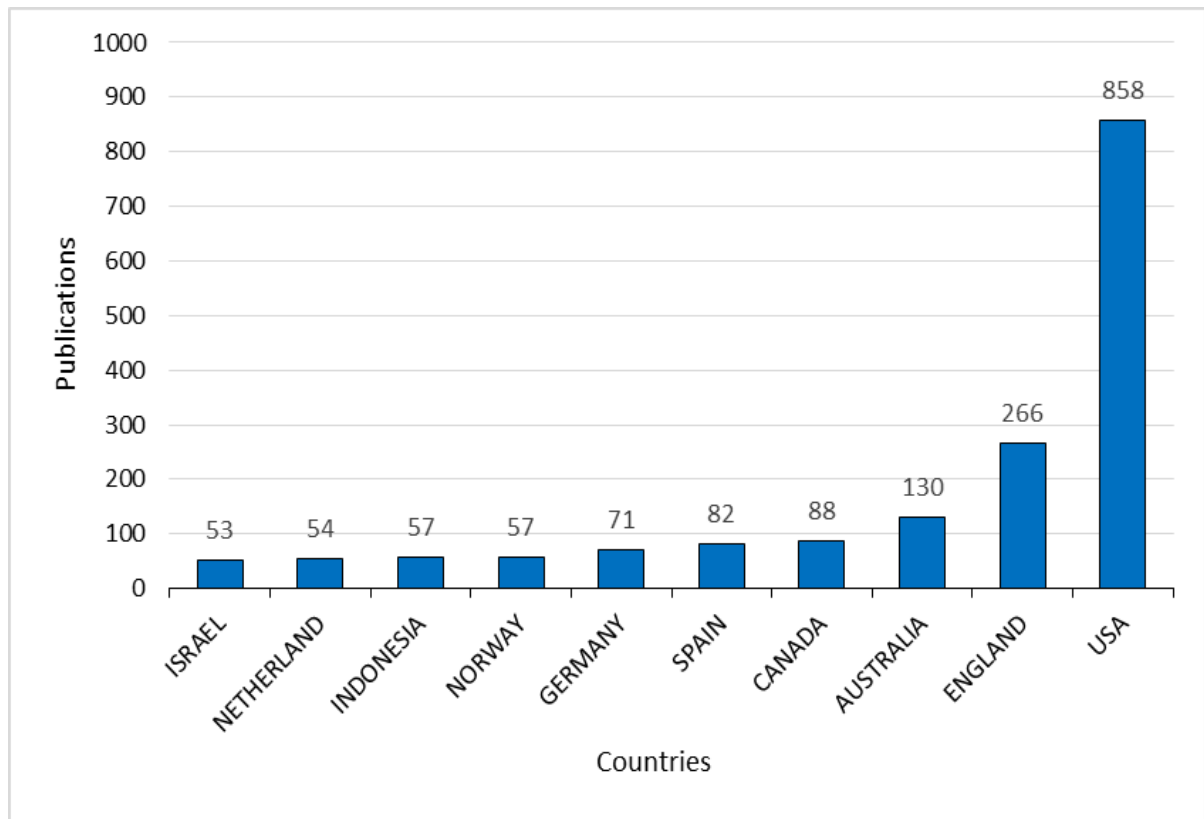
Figure 5: Leading Publications on RI by Top 10 Countries. (Microsoft Excel Data Analysis and WoS core collection, 2023)

Influential Countries with the Most Citation
Based on VOSviewer analysis in Figure 6, indicates the influential country with the most citations, as a measure of the country's research output on RI. However the higher the total link strength of citation on RI will have greater publication impact or connectivity on the world. The top citation for RI is the USA with 858 documents (6876 citation, 292 total link strength). See Table 5. This shows that the USA is the leading research hot spot in RI and that its research is having a significant impact on the world. Second highest is Israel with 53 documents (682 citations, 152 total link strength). The thickness of connectivity between USA and Israel in Figure 6, shows that both countries share common interest and perspective in geopolitical events, common religious heritage and strong academic ties. The third highest is England with 266 documents (2652 citations, 101 total link strength). The remaining top 10 countries are western countries with the exception of Singapore and Indonesia. There is a gap in RI in emerging countries that warrants attention.
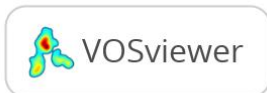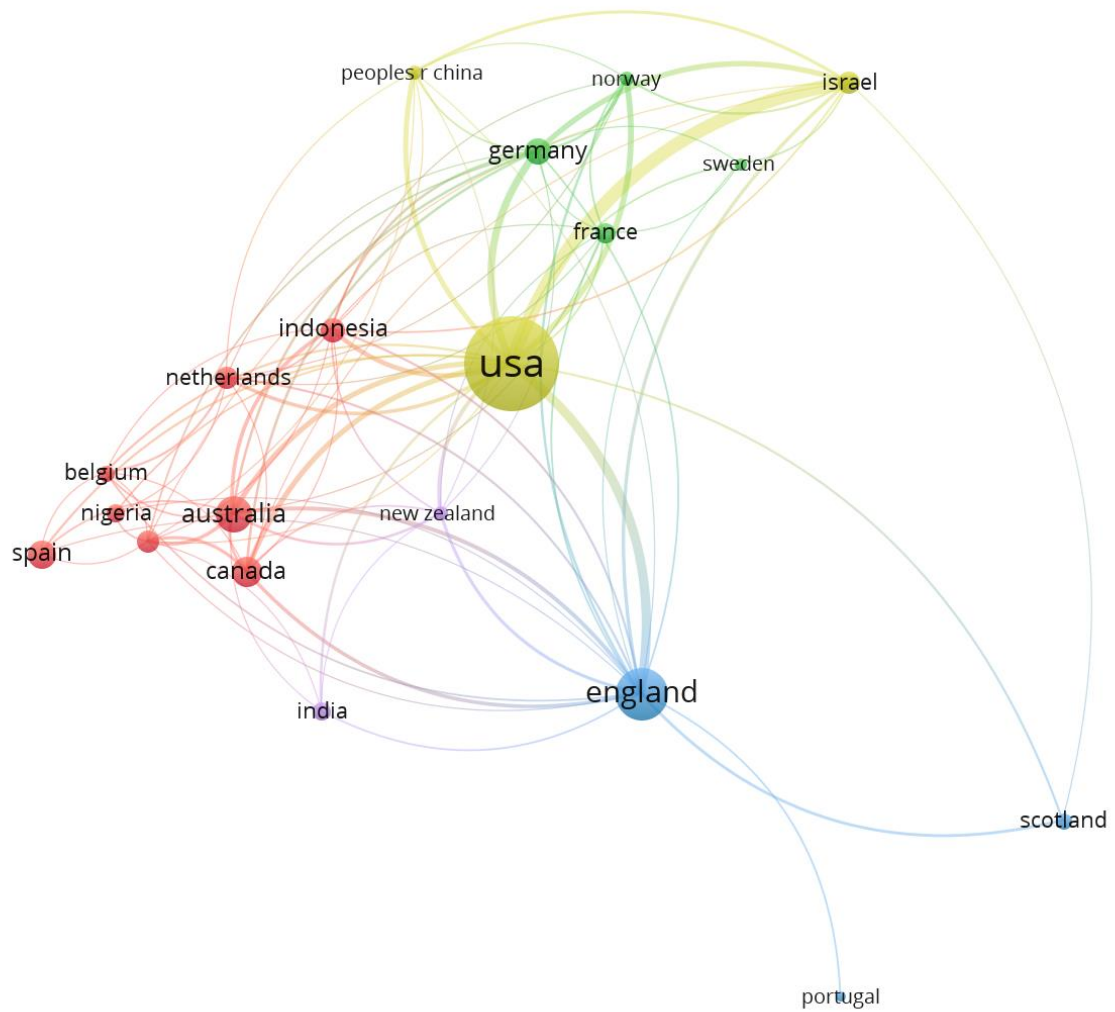
Figure 6: Countries With the Most Citations in RI. (VOSviewer Data Analysis, 2023)

Table 4
Top Ten Influential Countries With the Most Citation on RI

Rank	Country	Documents	Citation	Link Strength (LS)
1.	USA	858	6876	292
2.	Israel	53	682	152
3.	England	266	2652	101
4.	Germany	71	320	72
5.	Australia	130	1014	62
6.	Canada	88	373	48
7.	Singapore	25	66	45
8.	Indonesia	57	175	43
9.	South Africa	54	129	25
10.	Netherland	51	327	22

(VOSviewer Data Analysis and WoS Core Collection, 2023)

Collaboration of Co-Authorship by Country on RI
The co-authorship analysis studied the leading countries in religious intolerance research. Figure 7 shows co-authorship by country based on the bibliographic data from VOSviewer. The country with the greatest number of co-authors dealing in RI is the United States, with the remainder dispersed among small groups of countries including Ukraine, Argentina, Jordan, and Slovenia.

Figure 7: Co-Authorship by country on RI (VOSviewer Data Analysis, 2023)

Co-Authorship by Country for the Main US Cluster
When zooming on the US cluster from the VOSviewer graphic outcome, we can see clearly the connectivity of co-authorship specifically between the countries on RI topics that counted by TLS. With the exception of South Africa and Indonesia, the US and Anglo-Saxon countries like England, Australia, and Germany dominate the RI co-authorship rankings by country. England and Australia had the strongest co-authorship collaboration, followed by the England and United States connection, as well as Australia and South Africa connection, and the Australian and Indonesian Pacific collaboration. See Figure 8. This result is supported by the study of (Yumitro et al. 2023), (Özcelik (2022) and (Carey, et al. 2023) which shows that the United State is the most prominent country in term of affiliation (i.e. institutions, authors, and journal) with other countries such as U.K in the world on varieties topics with religious issues. However, also notable is an increasingly strong link which appears between the United States with Israel, Australia and Canada shows the US incline toward increasing international research collaboration.
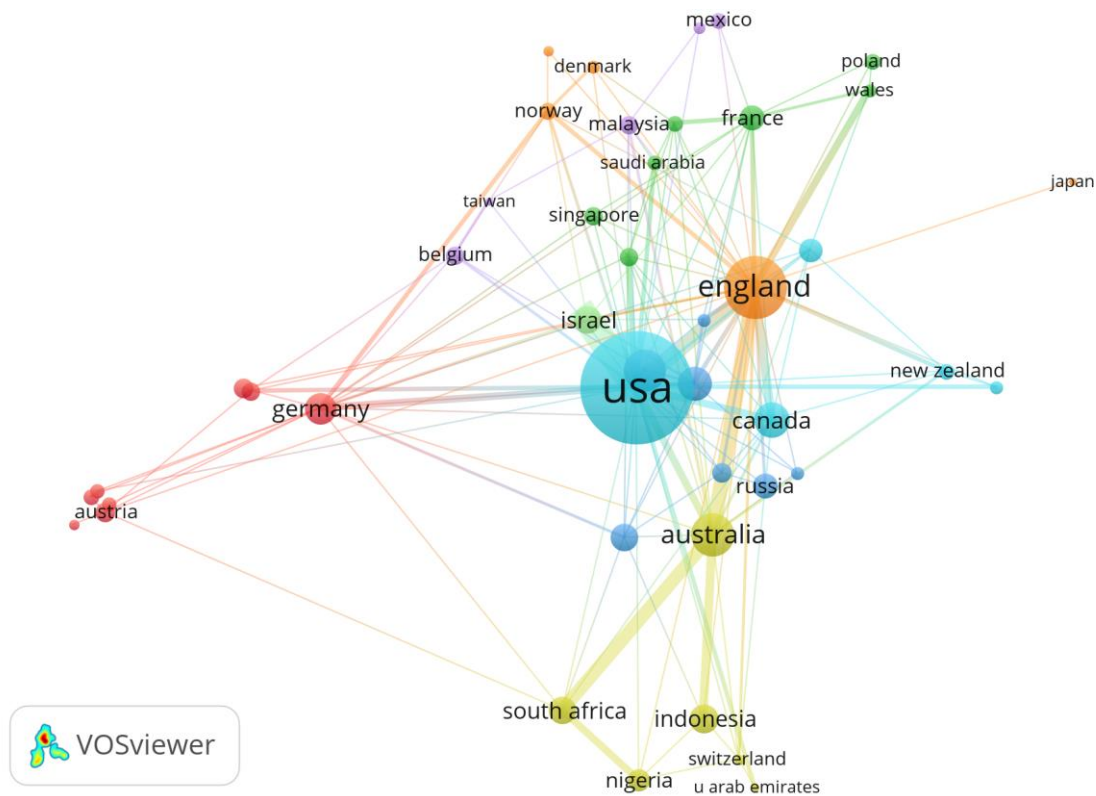
Figure 8: Co-Authorship by Country for the Main US Cluster and its Sub-Clusters (VOSviewer Data Analysis, 2023).

Top Institutions on RI

Microsoft Excel analysis shows that the top-10 institutions, as shown in Figure 9, are led by the University of California with 67 publications, followed by the University of London with 50 publications. The remaining eminent universities, including Bar Ilan University, Oxford University, and the rest, produce between 32 and 21 publications. Universities in the US and England predominate in this field. For example, the University of California System is a network of 10 universities. Berkeley Centre for the Study of Religion (BCSR) under this network is a well-known center for study on religion, advancing creative and critical scholarship on religion. Since its founding in 2012, BCSR has become a nexus for interdisciplinary collaboration, uniting leading scholars from an array of disciplines and responding to recent developments in the humanities and social sciences where academics focus on a range of issues related to religious intolerance, such as historical persecutions, hate crimes, and interfaith communication (BCSR, *n.d.*)
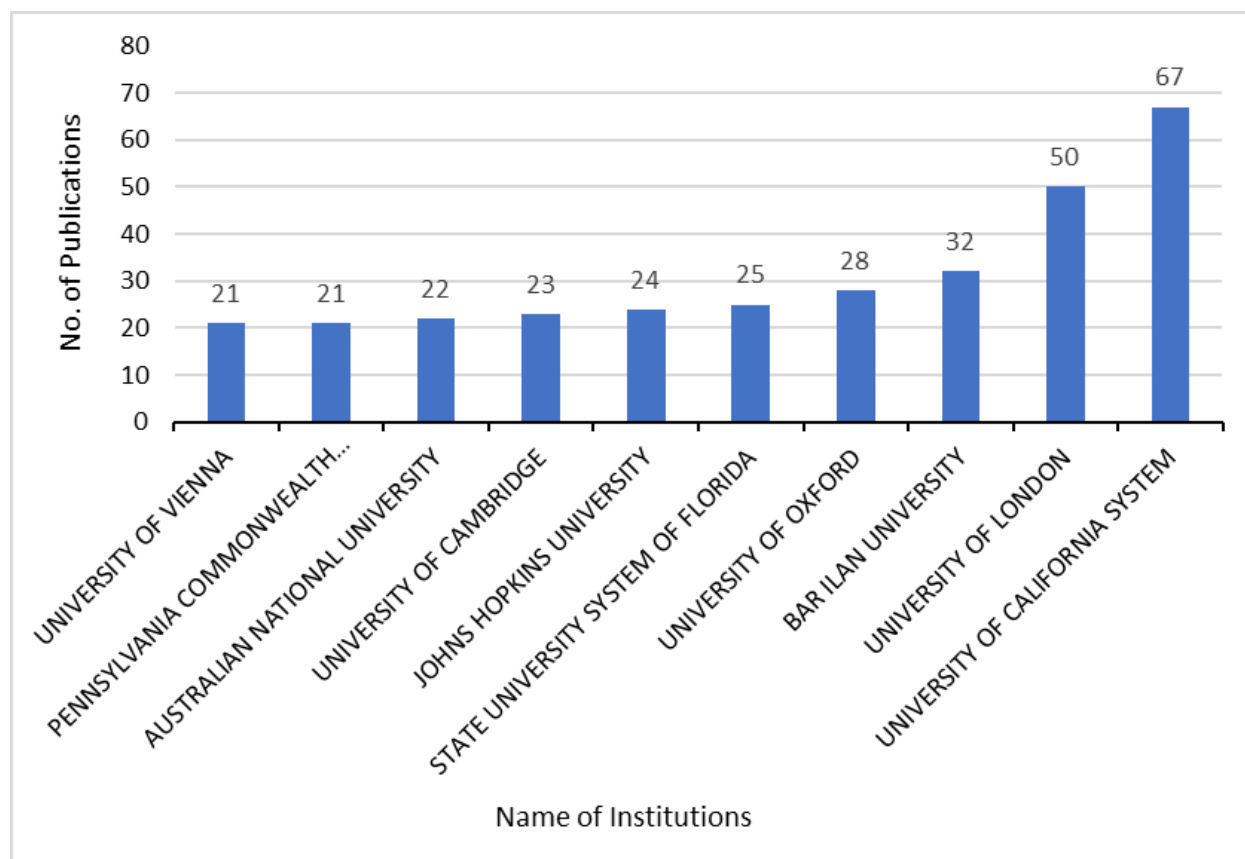
Figure 9: Top 10 institutions Leading Publications on RI (Microsoft Excel Data Analysis and WoS core collection, 2023)

Influential Institutions on RI
The top 10 universities with significant citations on RI, as determined by overall link strength, were identified from the VOSviewer data analysis displayed in Table 5. Firstly, Bar Ilan University had the highest ranking of 52 total link strength (489 citations, 32 documents), followed by Penn State University with 45 total link strength (259 citations, 13 documents), and University Notre Dame 10 total link strength (76 citations, 15 documents). For example, Jonathan Fox from the Department of Political Studies from the Faculty of Social Sciences, is a prominent researcher of Bar Ilan University. His research investigates the impact of religion on domestic conflict, terrorism, international intervention, and international relations. His other research interests include the quantitative analysis of Samuel Huntington's "Clash of Civilizations" theory, nationalism, and ethnic conflict (CRISrael, n.d.). The university website's researcher profile search and filter reveals that the researcher has explored themes and concepts such as conflict, politics, religious discrimination, identity, foreign policy, freedom of religion, exclusivity, church and state, secular, minority groups, symbolic, etc. in his writing (Bar-Ilan University, n.d.). Bar-Ilan University also actively promotes an interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion, which is reflected in its academic programs, faculty, and research activities indicates a commitment to interdisciplinary approaches in the study of religion.

Table 5
Top 10 influential institutions (with the highest citations and LS) on RI.

Rank	Institutions	Documents	Citation	Link Strength
1.	Bar Ilan univ.	32	489	52
2.	Penn State univ.	13	259	45
3.	Univ. notre dame	15	76	10
4.	Univ. calif berkeley	18	392	6
5.	Australian Catholic univ.	19	80	5
6.	Australian natl. univ.	22	71	4
7.	Univ. south africa	14	30	4
8.	Yale univ.	15	124	3
9.	Arizona state univ.	16	150	2
10.	Harvard univ.	14	406	2

(VosViewer Data Analysis, 2023)

Conclusion

The bibliometric analyses found interesting key findings. The trend in publication on RI shows a gradual increase in the last 7 years (2016-2022) with a peak in 2020 during the inception of Covid-19. This study also found that the top publication and most influential journal on RI is Religions journal that promotes interdisciplinary approaches to any of the world's religious/spiritual traditions, and invites contributions from scholars in various fields such as comparative studies in religion and politics, sociology of religion, role of religion in culture and society and etc. As an open-access journal, Religions makes its content freely available to readers, increasing its accessibility and impact. This model has contributed to the journal's growing reputation and influence.

Bar-Ilan University, a prominent Israeli institution, has a strong reputation in the study of religious discrimination, conflict, and intolerance. Its high link strength and citation count in this field can be attributed to several factors such as being well-connected to other key players in the field, the institution's research is widely cited and has a significant impact on the field and effective collaborations with other institutions, fostering knowledge exchange and innovation.

There is a strong indication from the analyses that publications and discussion on RI are dominated by Anglo Saxon countries which are led by America in the west and the United

Kingdom in Europe and Australia in Asia-Oceania. With most of the publications written in English on RI, no doubt these three countries contributed and dominated the discussion on RI. Even the top two countries together with Israel appear to be influential in terms of impact and connectivity measured by Total Link Strength. There were signs of emerging countries publishing work on RI from non-English speaking European countries (France, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Netherlands, Spain and Belgium) and developing countries such as Indonesia, India and Nigeria. However caution should be noted that most of the authors are from Anglo Saxon countries and institutions. As such the likelihood of western authors' perception and bias might misconstrue religion and Islam as critical themes in issues related to RI. Some attribute it to the Eurocentric bias to Islamophobia (Kumar 2015).

While the most prominent institution that published on RI is University of California System which combines of campuses with multidisciplinary subject area on religion such as Study of Religion, Jewish Studies, Islamic Studies, Political Science, Southeast Asian, South Asian, Sociology, Global Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, Hebrews, Philosophy and etc. The results indicate that the majority of sites discussing religious matters lean towards Western intellectual thought. Therefore to provide diverse viewpoints on religious matters, academics, particularly those from the Asian region, must free their minds from colonial thinking and there is a need to look more from the perspective of Asia literature in the future discussion. It is essential to critically examine and deconstruct colonial narratives that have shaped academic discourse on religion.

These studies provide significant theoretical contribution on underrepresented areas and viewpoints in RI research especially those from non-Western context highlighted by the bibliometric study. Finding these knowledge gaps can help guide future studies to fill these voids and critically challenge the dominant narratives that bias and limit to the Western-Centric perspective on RI. By highlighting the global scope of RI, the study encourages scholarly discourse of the complex issues surrounding RI by identifying key research questions and methodological approaches which can shape the future direction of the field which is important for policy-makers and practitioners working on issues of religious tolerance and diversity.

The study contributes to significant existing knowledge on RI that is identification of key trends and patterns that show increasing scholarly interest on RI which can be seen on notable peaks during Covid-19 suggest that global events and crises can amplify on RI. The analysis also indicates that geopolitical and cultural biases which are dominated by Anglo-Saxon countries with focus on Western perspective may limit our understanding of RI in non-Western contexts and perpetuate stereotypes. Therefore, the need for a more diverse and inclusive approach to RI research is evident, with a focus on incorporating non-Western perspectives and methodologies.

Identifying biases and limitations in current research is necessary in the context of RI research from bibliometric studies, emphasizing the need for a more inclusive and nuanced approach. Greater inclusivity and diversity in future studies, with a focus on the value of non-Western viewpoints to inspire more research by highlighting new trends and unexplored areas in the field of RI, as well as to provide a strong basis for future studies and guide useful measures that can help to mitigate the negative impacts of RI.

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