

# A Review of Public Cultural Space in Traditional Villages from the Perspective of Cultural Heritage

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## Abstract

Traditional village gateways, squares, wells, and historic trees serve as important gathering places for villagers to chat, discuss, and pass on cultural knowledge. These culturally rich core locations for culture transmission and development help preserve villagers' feelings and pass on traditional culture. However, the traditional culture of rural public spaces is vanishing due to strong cultural ties and increased incorporation of modern lives. To support the long-term preservation and advancement of local culture, this study looks at traditional villages' public cultural spaces from the standpoint of cultural heritage. We reviewed 78 research articles to better understand and summarise the findings of various research groups in various disciplines and research aims. In order to understand the development trend of spatial pattern and cultural inheritance of traditional villages, it provides a beneficial perspective for theoretical support for cultural space development and protection policies.

**Keywords:** Traditional Village- Public Space- Cultural Landscape-Cultural Heritage

## Introduction

Traditional villages have endured the baptism of time and contain a wealth of historical information and human landscapes, and in 1992 UNESCO inscribed cultural landscapes on the World Heritage List, officially recognizing internationally the link between disciplinary reasoning that sees landscapes as expressions of the cultural dimensions of territories, and the environments in which cultural heritage is protected and preserved (López Sánchez et al., 2020). The term "cultural landscape" encompasses a wide range of expressions of the interaction between humans and their natural environment (UNESCO). A cultural landscape is a complex system of distinctive and recognizable characteristic elements through the transformation of the environment by human beings through their activities (Ziyae, 2018). It is usually considered to include all elements of the built environment (e.g. buildings, roads), but also the ways in which they are used and understood, as well as the traditional and

intangible cultures attached to them (ICOMOS, 1999, pp. 1-2). Thus, they have both material (visible) and immaterial (invisible) characteristics in terms of their form of existence (Ziyae, 2018). As a typical cultural landscape, traditional villages have important cultural, historical, artistic and social values (Xu & Wang, 2021), and to a certain extent, they have inherited the non-renewable cultural heritage formed by the traditional culture of the agrarian era, which is an important field of research to promote regional development and the preservation of national cultural heritage inheritance.

In the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, the term cultural space was explicitly introduced to concretize the scope of intangible cultural heritage safeguarding, from which we can see the indivisibility of intangible culture safeguarding from tangible culture safeguarding, and the dependence of intangible expressions of culture on concrete physical space. The concept of cultural space is not only a physical entity, but also a perceived reality, a material social phenomenon (Fazeli et al., 2012) (Hakim et al., 2022), and a place where culture is accessed and occurs (Farhana & Farida, 2008), an interrelationship among people (perception of the entity), space (physical presence of the place), and culture (personal interpretations of the material) (Mohd et al., n.d.) (Hussain et al., 2020), is an important carrying space in the safeguarding of intangible cultural heritage. Public spaces in traditional villages have an important display function in the region and are places of material, spiritual and social human interaction. The public space formed by the traditions, habits and real needs within the village has a strong folkloristic cooler and development vitality (Cao, 2005), is a place of cultural formation, an indispensable place of expression of cultural landscape, a material medium for cultural perception and forming a place of memory, and is an important cultural space in the village. An in-depth understanding of the public cultural space of inherited traditional villages is important for the understanding of regional history and culture (Xiang et al., 2022) (Jirata, 2019), preservation of heritage (Bixia et al., 2014) (Sriwardani et al., 2023), rural revitalization (松 et al., 2021) (Fan et al., 2023), planning and management (Huang et al., 2023) (Liu, Cai, et al., 2023) (Zhao et al., 2022), identity (Desbiens & Sepúlveda, 2019) (Leparskienė, 2022), and promotion of sustainable development (X. Hu et al., 2019) (Maruya et al., 2015).

In the past decade, rural development has gradually received the attention of scholars from all sides in this context, and the protection of traditional villages has been on the rise, with the public cultural areas in traditional villages becoming the core research sites for cultural heritage and development. As the spatial area of cultural heritage landscape research has shifted from emphasizing the material space and form to a more complex socio-cultural and value system (Xu & Wang, 2021), and the cross-fertilization of multiple fields and disciplines has also provided a variety of means for interpreting the rich value of cultural landscapes. However, in the real development, the construction of rural cultural space exists in the mode of "government-led, social participation", but the quality is not ideal, the space and activities are poorly matched, the spatial landscape is not coordinated with the village, and there is a lack of intangible cultural heritage display in the space. Public awareness of the cultural connotations of community spatial landscapes is also insufficient (J. Zhou et al., 2023). The historical and cultural excavation and development trend of public cultural spaces in traditional villages still need to be explored. Therefore, it is necessary to deeply analyze the existing literature on public cultural spaces in traditional villages.

This paper presents a bibliometric and visual analysis of 78 case studies published internationally in the period 2014-2023 related to public cultural spaces in traditional villages under the cultural heritage perspective. The objective of this quantitative and visual analysis of scientific research is that by understanding the current research in terms of research themes, research objects, etc., by different research groups in different regions, the results can be obtained by (i) examining the annual publication trends regarding public cultural spaces in traditional villages, (ii) revealing the directions and trends of the highlighted research areas in the last decade, and (iii) obtaining the relationship between the existing research areas and the research objectives. Highlighting the major research hotspots and future research directions in the study of public cultural spaces in traditional villages, providing useful perspectives for understanding the development trends of spatial patterns and cultural inheritance in traditional villages.

## **Research Methodology**

### *Selection of Bibliometrics Tool*

A thematic review of terminology using ATLAS.ti 23 as a tool was introduced by Zairul (2020) as the methodology of this study applies a thematic analysis procedure in the literature review (Zairul, 2020). Clarke & Braun (2013) define principal locus analysis as the process of identifying patterns and constructing themes through a thorough reading of the subject matter (Clarke & Braun, 2013). Literature was selected based on several selection criteria, 1) published between 2014- 2023, 2) with at least the keywords "village" or "traditional village" or "cultural space" or "cultural landscape", 3) an extensive search of keywords in SCOPUS, Science Direct and Web of Science databases. Extensive searches were conducted, and Table 1 shows the flowchart of the paper collection process used by the authors.

### *Data Source*

Use the following keywords ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "village") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "cultural space") ) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) ) , ( TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "village") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "cultural space") ) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( OA , "all" ) ) AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "cultural landscape" " Traditional villages") AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( OA , "all" ) ) Extract published articles from SCOPUS. From 2013 to 2023, the search produced 82 articles on villages or countryside and cultural spaces or cultural landscapes.: A search for 2014 to 2023: 2014 to 2023 resulted in 103 articles. Subsequent use of the terms 'traditional villages' and 'cultural landscapes' keyboard\_arrow\_right Refined By: Document Types: articles: all open access. Clear All| Time span: 2014-01-01 to 2023-12-30 (index date), "cultural spaces" and "villages" keyboard\_arrow\_right Refined By: Document Types: articles. Open Access: All Open Access. Clear All| Time span: 2014-01-01 to 2023-12-30 (index date), "culture" and "spaces" and "traditional villages" keyboard\_arrow\_right Refined By: Document Types: article. Open Access: All Open Access. Clear All Time span: 2014-01-01 to 2023-12-30 (index date) A search of Web of Science returned 58 articles (Table 1).

Table 1

*Search strings from Scopus Science Direct and Web of Science*

SCOPUS	(TITLE-{Citation}ABS-KEY ("village") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("cultural space")) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND (LIMIT-TO (DOCTYPE, "ar"))	38 results
	(TITLE-ABS-KEY ("rural") AND TITLE-ABS-KEY ("cultural space" ) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( OA , "all" ) )	28 results
	TITLE-ABS-KEY ( "cultural landscape" "traditional village" ) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2024 AND ( LIMIT-TO ( DOCTYPE , "ar" ) ) AND ( LIMIT-TO ( OA , "all" ) )	17 results
Science Direct	"Village" And "Cultural" And "Space" Year: 2014 to 2023	58 articles
	"Rural space" And "Culture" Year: 2014 to 2023	5 articles
	"Rural culture" And "Space" Year: 2014 to 2023	10 articles
	"Culture landscape" And "Village" Year: 2014 to 2023	30 articles
Web of Science	"traditional village" And "Cultural landscape" keyboard_arrow_right Refined By: Document Types: Article.Open Access: All Open Access. Clear all  Timespan: 2014-01-01 to 2023-12-30 (Index Date)	19 results
	"Cultural space" And "Village" keyboard_arrow_right Refined By: Document Types: Article. Open Access: All Open Access. Clear all  Timespan: 2014-01-01 to 2023-12-30 (Index Date)	17 results
	"Cultural" And "Space" And "Traditional village" keyboard_arrow_right Refined By: Document Types: Article. Open Access: All Open Access. Clear all  Timespan: 2014-01-01 to 2023-12-30 (Index Date)	22 results

Thus, the literature was initially searched in SCOPUS, Science Direct and Web of Science searches resulting in 82 articles from (SCOPUS), 103 articles from (Science Direct) and 58 articles from (Web of Science).

However, 144 articles were deleted due to issues such as the scope of their discussion not being part of the cultural heritage or the study area not being part of a historic village. A number of articles were also found to be incomplete, or the articles were inaccessible, and 20 articles were duplicated. As a result, the number of articles to be reviewed for the final paper was reduced to 78 (Figure 1). These articles were uploaded into ATLAS.Ti 23 as primary literature, and each paper was then categorized by 1) author source; 2) year of publication; 3) research topic or field, and 4) research aim. In doing so, articles could be analyzed according to the year of publication. All 78 articles were finalized to become the final ATLA.ti23 document.

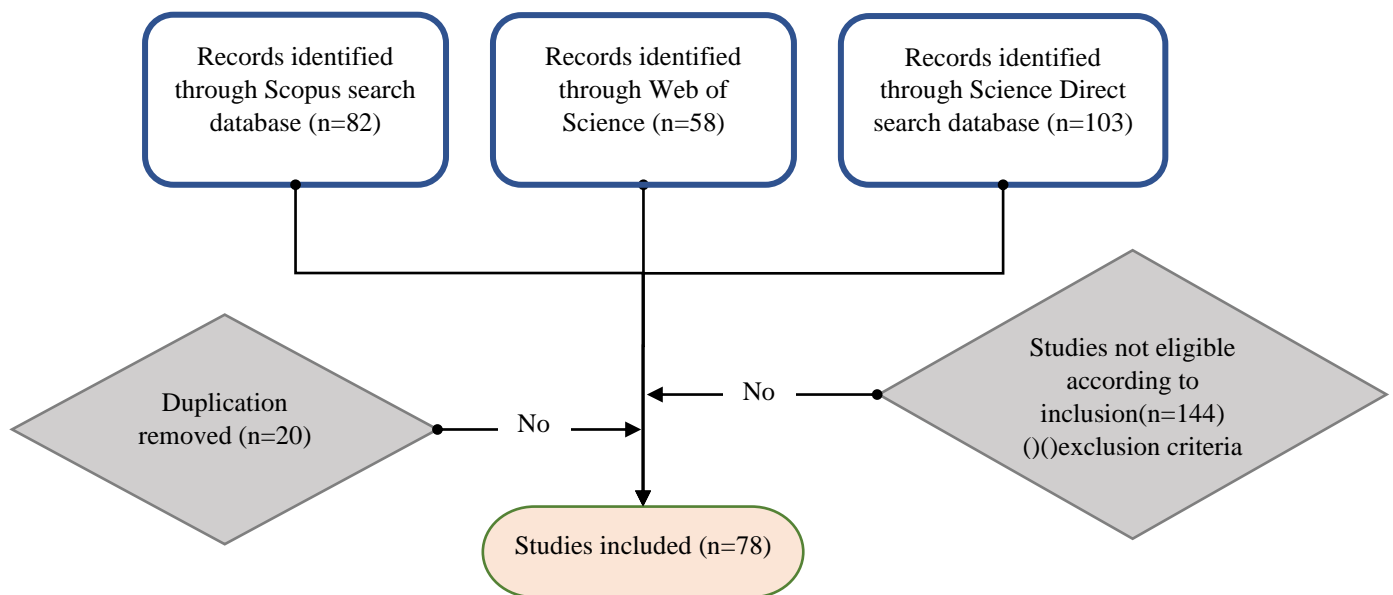


Figure 1. Inclusion and Exclusion criteria in the thematic review

## Analysis and Discussions

### *Analysis of Annual Research Publications Trend*

These publications can be easily grouped by year of publication and frequency of papers published per year. the total number of articles analyzed by ATLAS.ti 23 is 78 (Figure 2). As mentioned above, the number of research publications on the public space of traditional villages continued to increase as the number of publications continued to increase over the last decade, except for a dip in 2020 and 2021. Of the 78 publications retrieved, China's research on traditional villages OR rural cultural spaces was the most prominent, with a total of 51 articles published during the period of retrieval time 2014-2023, and the number of papers published increasing year by year from 2019 onwards (Table 2). It can be seen that traditional village public cultural space is a popular topic in China, and the heat is continuing to rise.

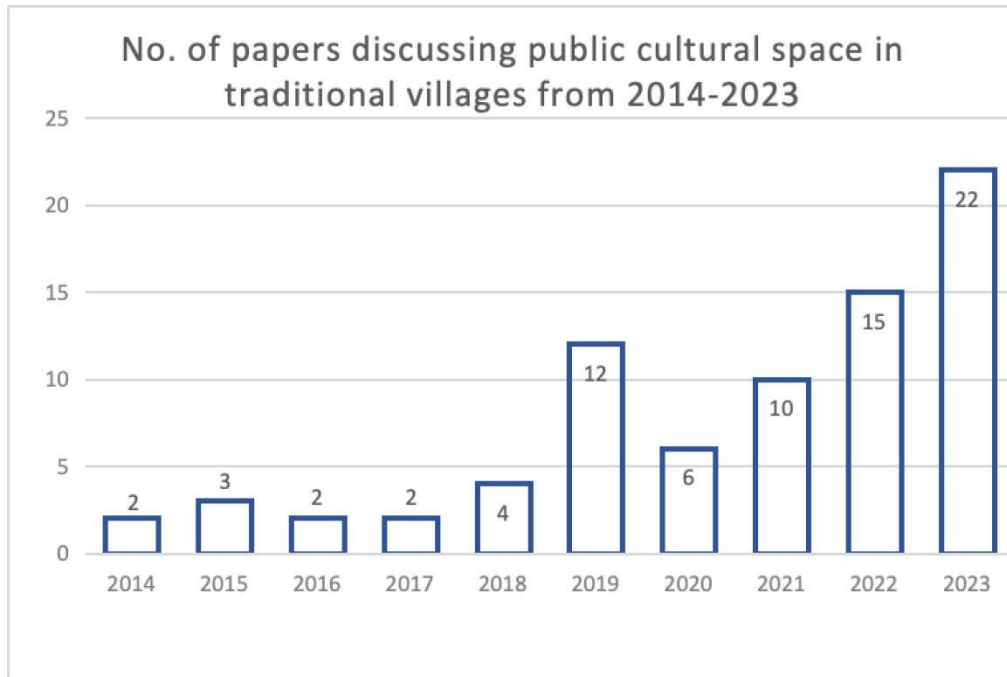


Figure 2. Paper breakdown according to the year of publication

Table 2

Country and Year of Publication

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Total
Australian	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Canada	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
China	0	0	0	1	0	7	4	9	12	18	51
Egypt	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ethiopia	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
Indonesia	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Japan	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Lithuania	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Malaysia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
Mexico	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

Poland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Romania	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Russian	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Singapore	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
South Africa	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
South Korea	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Spanish	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Switzerland	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Ukraine	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
UK	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
USA	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2

#### *Classification and Trends in Research Field*

Discusses the topic of public cultural spaces in traditional villages in the context of cultural heritage. These range from topics centered around the constituent elements of village space to topics related to local cultural knowledge as fundamental to the space. Most of the many papers mentioned above address the relationship between the different topics, which shows the multiple material and immaterial character of the space. Most of the main discussions in the above papers emphasize the relationship between the evolution of the existence of public cultural spaces in traditional villages as a subject and human culture and social behavior, rather than singularly discussing design practices as an object of existence. In order to understand the research content of each publication, the 78 papers were categorized according to themes and keywords. In addition to the basic information contained in each case study village (including the name, geographic location, and country of the case study village), the main contribution of these papers to the field of cultural heritage spaces in terms of their main topics of discussion during the period 2014-2023. The research areas cover the following fourteen areas: 1), Cultural Landscapes, 2), Community Perception and Participation, 3), Character and Cultural Elements, 4) Cultural Landscape Genetics, 5), Environment and Ecology, 6), Local Knowledge, 7), Management and Evaluation, 8), Rural Spatial Development, 9), Spatial Art and Technology, 10), Tourism and Experience, 11), Traditional Activities and Spaces, 12), Traditional Cultural Development, 13), Values and Identity, and 14), Ethnic Minorities.

Table 3

*The Categorization of Themes from the Paper's Discussion 2014-2023*

No.	Author, year of publication	Theme of discussions
1	(Desbiens & Sepúlveda, 2019); (X. Hu et al., 2019); (Mahmoud, 2016); (Anderson, 2020); (X. Chen et al., 2020); (Hwang, 2014); (Jia et al., 2023); (Ansori et al., 2023); (Hearn, 2021); (Kozak et al., 2019); (Bixia et al., 2014); (P. Liu, Zeng, et al., 2023); (L. Zhang et al., 2021)	<i>Characteristic and Cultural Elements:</i> The public cultural spatial characteristics and cultural elements of traditional villages are influenced by social, cultural, environmental, historical and behavioral factors, and can reflect their unique geographical characteristics. Characteristic and Cultural Elements in the literature include descriptions of spatial characteristic components, changes in morphological characteristics, distribution of cultural characteristics, geographical environment and other characteristics.
2	(Ferretti & Gandino, 2018); (Lin et al., 2021); (R. Zhang & Smith, 2019); (Zhao et al., 2022); (X. Huang et al., 2022); (Sriwardani et al., 2023); (X. Wang et al., 2022); (Leparskienė, 2022); (Yuangcheng et al., 2020); (L. Zhou et al., 2023); (Wei et al., 2021)	<i>Community Perception and Participation:</i> Traditional village public cultural spaces have been investigated in terms of the perception and participation of community users in terms of green regeneration development, cultural heritage tourism, community adaptation, historical memory, sense of place shaping, and rural governance, emphasizing the key role of the community in the development of traditional village public cultural spaces.
3	(Desbiens & Sepúlveda, 2019); (X. Chen et al., 2020); (Ansori et al., 2023); (F. Yang et al., 2023); (Leparskienė, 2022); (D. Liu & Wang, 2023); (Fatimah, 2015); (Shiferaw et al., 2023); (L. Zhou et al., 2023); (Z. Hu et al., 2021); (Zhu et al., 2022); (Renfer, 2017); (Chang & Li, 2022); (G. Li et al., 2023); (Shen & Chou, 2022); (Song et al., 2021)	<i>Cultural landscape:</i> the study of the public cultural space of traditional villages with regard to the cultural landscape includes the study of the boundaries of indigenous areas, the spatial evolution of traditional villages, the impact of cultural ecosystems, the geographical distribution of cultural identities from the Megalithic to the colonial period, the evolution and reconstruction of rural cultural spaces, historical memory and personal experience, the analysis of clusters of selected sites, the identification of the importance of visual landscapes, the visualization of the genetics of landscapes, and so on.
4	(Z. Hu et al., 2021); (Fan et al., 2023); (G. Li et al., 2023); (P. Liu, Zeng, et al., 2023); (Xiang et al., 2022)	<i>Cultural landscape gene:</i> for the study of spatial elements in traditional villages, exploring the cultural landscape gene of traditional Chinese villages from the perspective of spatial semiotics.



5	(Mao et al., 2022); (Lin et al., 2021); (García, 2020); (P. Chen et al., 2021); (Bi et al., 2020); (Harun & Jaffar, 2018); (Bixia et al., 2014); (J. Cao, 2023); (C. Chen et al., 2023); (P. Liu, Zeng, et al., 2023)	<i>Environment and Ecology:</i> The diversity of environments in which traditional villages are located has guided researchers to focus on the ecological adaptability, ecological optimization and ecological evaluation of the public cultural spaces of traditional villages under different environmental conditions, with sound, water, vegetation, etc., being the objects of their research.
6	(Mao et al., 2022); (Jia et al., 2023); (Zaikov & Avdonina, 2019); (F. Yang et al., 2023); (Y. Yang et al., 2019); (Leparskienė, 2022); (Jirata, 2019); (Fan et al., 2023); (G. Li et al., 2023); (Xiang et al., 2022)	<i>Ethnic:</i> Ethnic minority areas have a strong historical and Cultural identity, and different ethnic groups have a strong local experience and heritage in their traditional village cultural spaces
7	(Anderson, 2020); (X. Chen et al., 2020); (Tan et al., 2019); (Martínez-Tagüeña & Torres Cubillas, 2018); (Hearn, 2021)	<i>Local knowledge:</i> The study of local knowledge in the cultural spaces of traditional villages is essential for understanding, preserving and promoting the sustainable development of traditional villages. The cultural and historical context of spatial production in the context of local political economy is revealed. The relationship between local knowledge and spatial regeneration is emphasized. Helps us to understand the evolution of traditional villages, their cultural identity and the interaction between people and their environment.
8	(Gavrilă-Paven, 2015); (R. Zhang & Smith, 2019); (G. Xu et al., 2021); (B. Li et al., 2022); (Kozak et al., 2019); (Taylor, 2019)	<i>Management and Evaluation:</i> The management and evaluation of public cultural spaces in traditional villages involves the management of tourism opportunities and cultural spaces, stakeholder relations, local knowledge and community participation, environmental adaptability, and the perception of cultural values, etc. Through theoretical knowledge, practical operation and participation of all parties, the public cultural spaces in traditional villages can be managed and protected in a more comprehensive and effective way.
9	(H. Ma & Tong, 2022); (X. Hu et al., 2019); (Hebinck et al., 2018); (X. Chen et al., 2020); (Ye et al., 2020); (X. Huang et al., 2022); (Jia et al., 2023); (Dai et al., 2023);	<i>Rural Spatial Development:</i> Traditional Village Spatial Development covers topics such as different spatial differences, multidimensional rural space reconstruction, the plurality of community landscapes, the impact of cultural production on rural cultural space, and the reconstruction of rural space by tourism. Using ArcGIS and GeoDa technology, spatial production

	(N. Chen, 2016); (Stishova, 2022); (Zaikov & Avdonina, 2019); (X. Wang et al., 2022); (F. Yang et al., 2023); (M. Liu, Wang, et al., 2023); (B. Li et al., 2022); (X. Chen et al., 2022); (Y. Yang et al., 2019); (M. Liu, Cai, et al., 2023); (Jirata, 2019); (Xia & Cheng, 2019); (Martínez-Tagüeña & Torres Cubillas, 2018); (W. Chen et al., 2023); (Q. Wang et al., 2023); (Y. Jiang et al., 2023); (Y. Huang et al., 2023); (L. Zhang et al., 2021))	theory, spatial grammar and demographic analysis, the process, mechanism and characteristics of rural spatial evolution are analysed in depth, and novel topics such as rural cultural governance, children's cultural space, and the impact of tourism on the countryside are proposed.
10	(M. Liu, Wang, et al., 2023); (Zhu et al., 2022); (X. Wang, 2022); (W. Wang et al., 2023); (Y. Jiang et al., 2023); (J. Li et al., 2022); (Q. Liu et al., 2019); (G. Jiang et al., 2023)	<i>Spatial Art and Technology</i> : The study of public cultural spaces in traditional villages allows the integration of artificial intelligence, digital technology and architectural extraction technology, which realises intelligent reconstruction of spatial structure and texture, while the technology in parametric reconstruction and synergy brings new ideas for spatial design and heritage protection and inheritance. The mixed-method research on space and its construction intelligence promotes the cross-border integration of spatial art and technology.
11	(Q. Liu, Liu, et al., 2023); (M. Liu, Wang, et al., 2023); (Y. Yang et al., 2019); (Fatimah, 2015); (P. Chen et al., 2021); (Chang & Li, 2022); (Shen & Chou, 2022)	<i>Tourism and Experience</i> : In the study of the public space of traditional villages, from the influence of the living environment on the activity-travelling behaviour within the village, the spatial reconstruction triggered by red tourism, to the study of the mechanism of the social space evolution of ethnic villages, and the environmental governance of rural tourism, these studies of tourism activities have formed a multi-dimensional impact on traditional villages and promoted the sustainability of cultural landscapes.
12	(Maruya et al., 2015); (C.-M. Wang, 2017); (Sriwardani et al., 2023); (G. Jiang et al., 2023))	<i>Traditional activities and space</i> : The study of traditional activities and space in traditional villages includes folk religious activities, sacred space, traditional workspace, and space for ceremonial and cultural activities.
13	(N. Chen, 2016); (Stishova, 2022); (Yuangcheng et al.,	<i>Traditional Cultural Development</i> : Traditional cultural activity spaces play an important role in the shaping and reproduction of culture and provide support for the

	2020); (L. Ma et al., 2019); (M. Liu, Cai, et al., 2023); (Jirata, 2019)	shaping of a sense of place, spatial restoration, and cultural governance of public cultural spaces in traditional villages.
14	(Hwang, 2014); (Xu, 2021); (Leparskienė, 2022); (Xu, 202); (Taylor 2019)	<i>Values and Identity</i> : Cognition and understanding of the cultural, historical and natural values of traditional villages in public cultural spaces plays an important role in the search for and expression of one's own identity, the emotional attachment and identification of the place, and is a key factor in the realization of sustainable development.

A closer look at each of the above themes helps us to better understand the characteristics of the current global research field on the co-cultural spaces of traditional villages in the cultural heritage perspective. Among these 78 research cases, some of the published journals do not have only a single research theme. 14 (17.9%) of the studies are thematic studies on the elements and spatial characteristics of the characteristics of the public space in traditional villages, and 12 (15.4%) of the studies explore the community perception and participation of the space users. Sixteen (20.5%) mentioned the concept of cultural landscape in traditional village spaces. Cultural landscapes have specific regional characteristics. These core factors of landscape construction have inheritance like biological genes. 5 articles (6.4%) applied the concept of cultural landscape genes to traditional village spaces and extracted and positioned their cultural landscape genes from 2021. 10 articles (12.8%) explored the eco-livability of traditional villages through the study of spatial environments. Five articles (6.4%) excavated and introduced local knowledge in traditional villages, and six articles (7.7%) focused on spatial management and spatial evaluation issues of traditional villages. During this period, the most attention was paid on the issue of village spatial development, with 26 (33.3%) published journals discussing research on it. There were 8 (10.3%) studies on spatial art and technology, 7 (9.0%) on tourism-related topics, 4 (5.1%) on traditional activities and space, and 6 (7.7%) on traditional cultural development. There were 5 (6.4%) studies on the value and identity of traditional village spaces. Among all the studies on public cultural space in traditional villages, 10 (12.8%) cases were from ethnic minority villages, and it can be seen from the time of publication that the public cultural space in ethnic minority villages has been gradually paid attention to since 19 years, as shown in Figure 3.

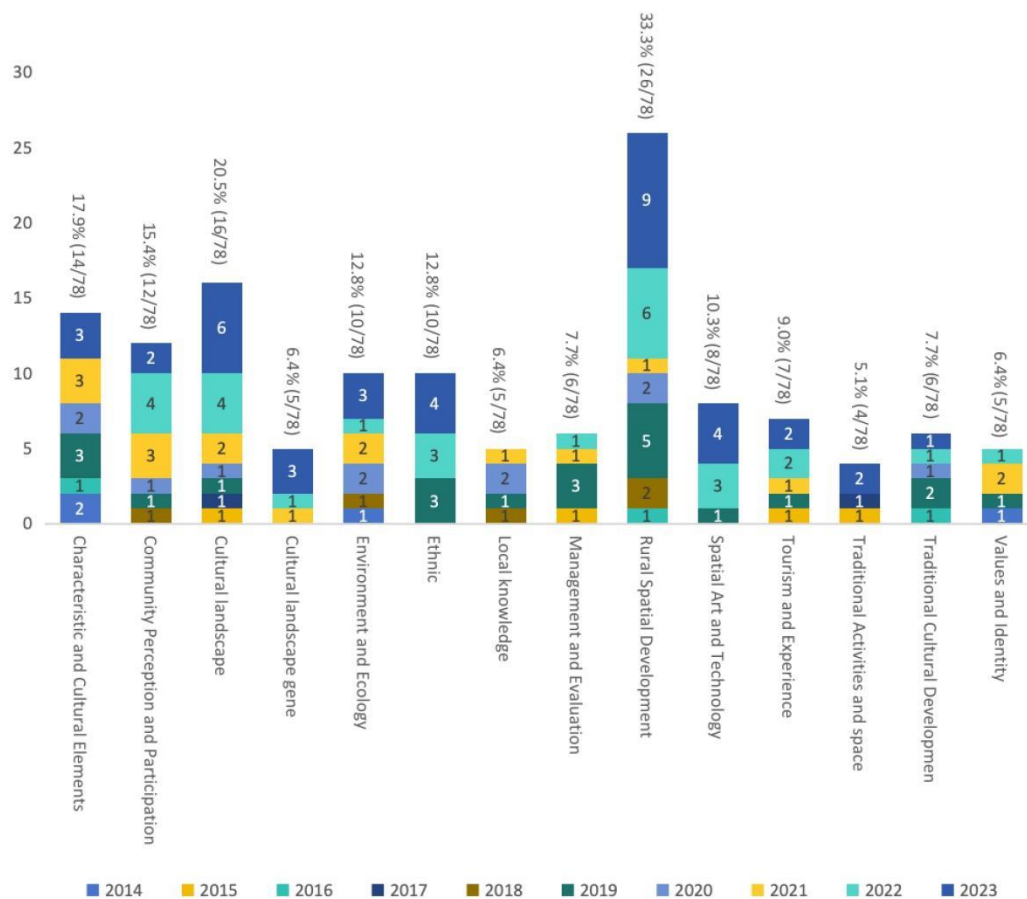


Figure 3. Main themes and percentages of the journal published 2014-2023

From the published data, it can be concluded that identity and cultural elements, community participation and perception, cultural landscape and rural space development are the main popular research themes in the study of public cultural space in traditional villages under the perspective of cultural heritage, and the heat of the cut continues to rise. The research trend of rural space development grew the fastest and became the hottest topic in the five years of research after 2019. This is followed by Cultural Landscapes, Identity and Cultural Elements and Community Engagement and Perception. Cultural landscape genetics, spatial arts and technology, and ethnic minority topics were the newest topic types added in the post-19 period. Although the number of published articles on the topics of cultural landscape genetics and traditional activities and space increased in the last three years, the number of topics discussed in published journals with local knowledge, values and identity remained relatively low in the decade.

*Classification of Research Purposes and Trends*

From the 78 published articles on research on public cultural spaces in traditional villages from 2014-2023, we can obtain 8 main purposes by categorizing and summarizing their research purposes, which are 1), understanding local knowledge 7 articles accounted for 9.0%, 2), supporting tourism economic development 11 articles accounted for 14.1%, 3), sustainable development 14 articles accounted for 17.9%, 4), spatial planning and Design 16 articles accounted for 20.5%, 5), Rural Revitalization 19 articles accounted for 24.4%, 6), Policy and Management 9 articles accounted for 11.5%, 7), Local Identity 3 articles accounted

for 3.8%, and 8), Preservation of Cultural Heritage 20 articles accounted for 25.6%, as shown in Figure 4.

As can be seen in Figure 4, protection of cultural heritage, tourism economic development, sustainable development, rural revitalization and development, policy and management, and spatial planning and design have been the main purposes of the research on public cultural spaces in traditional villages, and protection of cultural heritage, rural revitalization, and spatial planning and design are the three most popular main purposes of the research and form an explosive growth in 2023. After 2018 understanding local knowledge and local identity become new research purposes, and understanding and exploring local knowledge information is valued by researchers and forms a peak in 2021, however, the research purpose of local identity is still relatively weak.

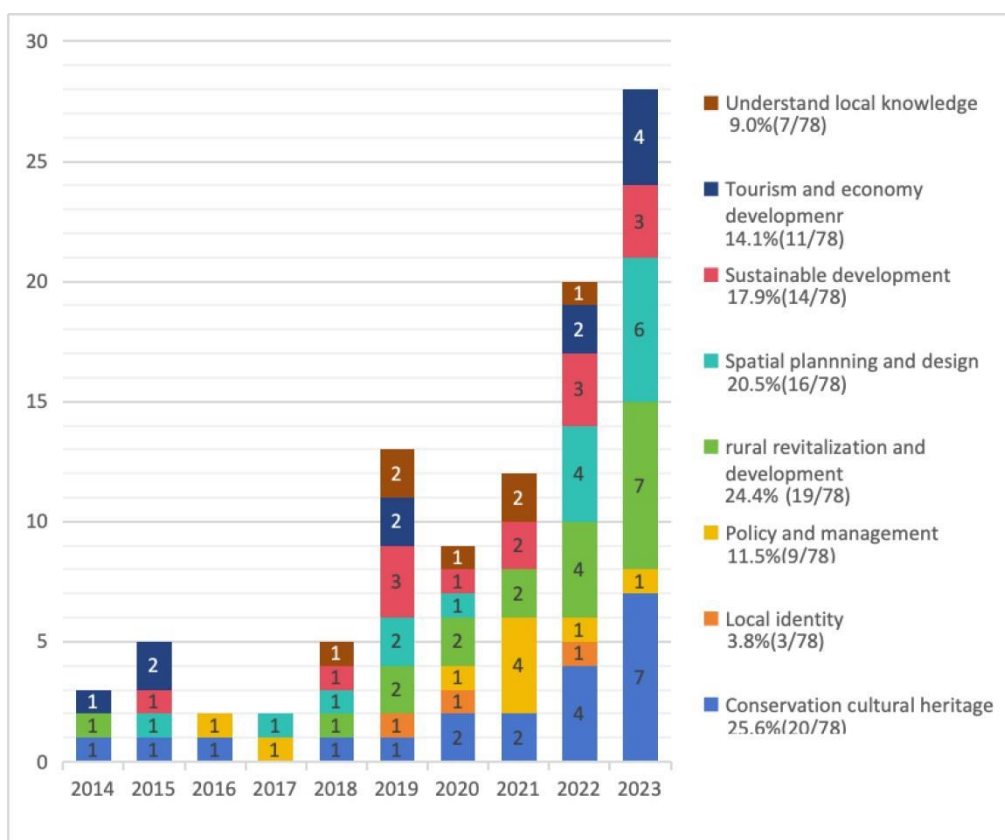


Figure 4. The main research purpose and percentages of the journal published 2014-2023

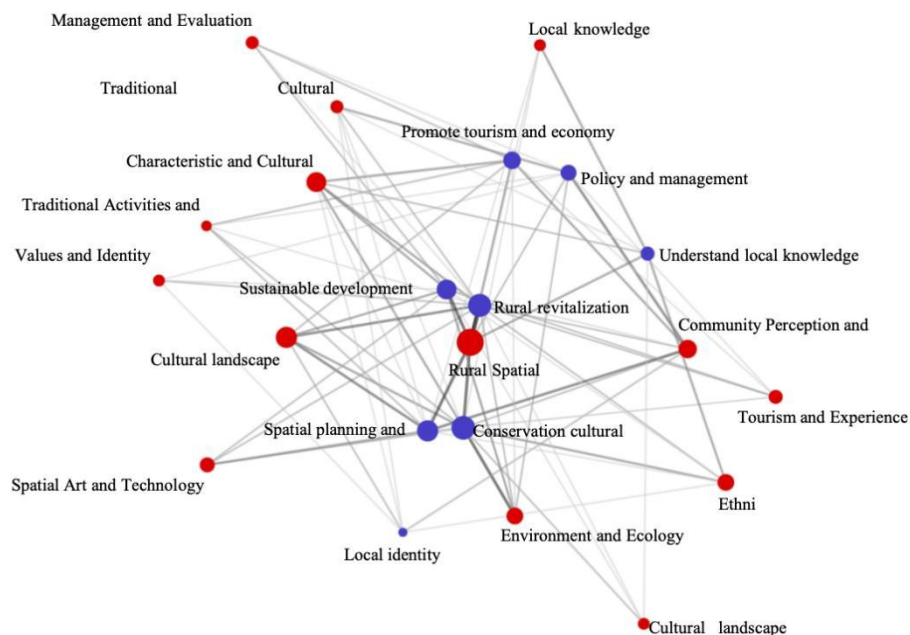


Figure 5. Research topic and research purpose network of the journal published 2014-2023

Comparative analyses of research content and research purposes yielded the research theme and research purpose network diagram in Figure 5, with red dots indicating the 13 main research themes and blue dots indicating the 8 main research purposes. The figure shows the network of research relationships between the most research-heated research themes and research purposes. The rural spatial development research theme has this very high connectivity with rural revitalization, preservation of cultural heritage, spatial planning and design, and sustainable development. The distance between rural spatial development themes and rural revitalization purposes is the shortest and thickest cut, which shows that they are often co-presented by scholars and have a high level of interest, with 11 out of 78 papers mentioning the relationship between rural spatial development themes and rural revitalization purposes. The network diagram of research themes and research purposes can be used to better understand the relationship between themes and purposes in the study of public cultural spaces in traditional villages, and to find hot topics and new blank relationships from them.

## Discussion

By analyzing, collating and summarizing in detail 78 publicly available journals within the world from 2014-2023 related to public cultural space in traditional villages from a cultural heritage perspective, it can be clearly found that the number of researches on public cultural space in traditional villages has shown a clear upward trend in recent years, which is particularly prominent in the region of China, where the public cultural space in traditional villages is a popular topic of great concern, and is also importantly related to the direction of China's policy development.

From the perspective of research themes, it mainly focuses on the main research directions of cultural landscape, community participation and perception, and rural space development. The study of cultural landscape reveals the cultural elements carried by traditional villages in space, the study of community perception and participation highlights the subjective

experience and preference of residents for space, and the study of rural spatial development pays attention to the evolution of villages in the course of time and its influencing factors. In addition, spatial art and technology, tourism and experience, values and identity have also received attention, and ethnic minority villages have also become an emerging research direction that has attracted much attention in recent years, all of which reflect the importance attached to multicultural and interdisciplinary research. Meanwhile, research on local knowledge and local identity has gradually increased, reflecting scholars' deeper understanding of the roles and cultural identities of community residents. Topics such as cultural activities and spatial relations and cultural landscape genetics are not as hotly discussed but deserve the attention of scholars and researchers.

In terms of research objectives, preservation of cultural heritage, rural revitalization and sustainable development have been the main purposes of research. Studies such as understanding local knowledge and local identity have also gradually increased. It shows the researchers' more diversified and deeper concern for the public cultural space of traditional villages. Through the analysis of the network diagram, the researcher shows the relationship between different research themes and research purposes, presenting the complexity and diversity of the research. It is obvious from the network diagram that rural space development is an important research theme, which is crucial for achieving the goals of rural revitalization and protection of cultural heritage.

### **Conclusion**

This paper provides a comprehensive understanding of the research field of public cultural space in traditional villages, reflects the development trend and hotspot of the research on public cultural space in traditional villages from the perspective of cultural heritage, provides direction and inspiration for future research, and also provides more in-depth theoretical support and practical guidance for the protection, revitalization and sustainable development of traditional villages.

The research identifies significant growth in this field, particularly in China, where traditional villages align closely with rural revitalization and heritage policies. Themes such as cultural landscapes, community participation, and rural spatial development reveal their role in preserving heritage and community identity.

Additionally, the study emphasizes interdisciplinary trends, including local knowledge, identity, spatial art, and technology. The focus on minority villages underscores the importance of multicultural perspectives, providing a deeper understanding of cultural heritage and sustainable development. This work bridges knowledge gaps and supports cultural space preservation policies.

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