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A BRIEF BIBLIOMETRIC STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF GENDER ISSUES IN TOURISM USING THE SCOPUS DATABASE

Various publications on gender issues in tourism were collected and selected using one of the most popular databases, Scopus. The research documents are publications from the last 2 decades (between 2004 and 2023). The Scopus analyzer is used to obtain some analysis results of scientific publications, such as year, source, country, etc. VOSviewer version 1.6.17 is used to analyze different units such as co-authorship and co-occurrences. Statistical analysis and network analysis indicates that the highest number of documents were published in 2022 and 2023, with Spain having the highest number of publications. The results also show that in the first 10 years, the number of publications was very small, and the growth was uneven, but in the following 10 years, the number of published articles gradually increased in general, especially from 2021, the number of publications increased significantly. Researchers from Spain, the UK, the USA and Australia publish more than 50% of all published documents worldwide, ahead of 59 other countries and territories. In addition, the top 10 most productive institutions in terms of publications are from the above-mentioned countries. It can be said that the study of gender in tourism was initiated by scholars from democratic English-speaking countries and some Western countries, and mass interest only arose after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic. Network analysis of various parameters shows that there is much room for further research on women's leadership, empowerment and employment.

Key words: Gender issue, tourism, Scopus database, bibliometric analysis.

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Скопус деректер базасын пайдалану арқылы туризмдегі гендерлік мәселелерді қысқаша библиометриялық статистикалық талдау

Туризмдегі гендерлік мәселелерді зерттеуге арналған әртүрлі басылымдар ең танымал дерекқорлардың бірі Scopus көмегімен жинақталып іріктелді. Зерттеу құжаттары соңғы 2 онжылдықтағы (2004–2023 жылдар арасындағы) жарияланымдар болып саналады. Scopus анализаторы ғылыми басылымдардың жыл, дереккөз, ел, т.б. сияқты кейбір талдау нәтижелерін алу үшін пайдаланылады. VOSviewer 1.6.17 нұсқасы бірлескен-авторлық (co-authorship) және бірлескен-көріну (co-occurrences) сияқты әртүрлі бірліктерді талдау үшін пайдаланылады. Статистикалық талдау және желілік талдау 2022 және 2023 жылдары жарияланған құжаттардың ең көп санын көрсетті, соның ішінде Испания басылымдардың ең көп санын иеленген. Нәтижелер сондай-ақ алғашқы 10 жылда басылымдар саны өте аз, өсім біркелкі болғанымен, кейінгі 10 жылда жарияланған құжаттар саны жалпы алғанда бірте-бірте өскенін көрсетеді, ол өсім 2021 жылдан бастап біркелкі әрі қарқынды болды. Испаниядан, Ұлыбританиядан, АҚШ-тан және Австралиядан келген зерттеушілер дүние жүзінде жарияланған барлық құжаттардың 50%-дан астамын құрады, бұл көрсеткіш басқа 59 ел мен аумақтан асып түсті. Сонымен қатар басылымдар тән үздік 10 ұйымның ең өнімді үш институты жоғарыда аталған елдерге тиесілі. Туризмдегі гендерлік мәселені зерттеу демократиялық дамыған ағылшын тілді елдер мен кейбір батыс елдерінің ғалымдарының бастамасы және жаппай қызығушылық COVID-19 пандемия кезеңі аяқталғаннан кейін ғана оянды деп айтуға болады. Әртүрлі параметрлердің желілік талдауы әйелдердің көшбасшылығы,

құзіреттіліктерін кеңейту және жұмыспен қамту мәселелері бойынша одан әрі зерттеулерге үлес қосу үшін көп мүмкіндіктер бар екенін көрсетеді.

Түйін сөздер: Гендер мәселесі, туризм, Scopus мәліметтер базасы, библиометриялық талдау.

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Краткий библиометрический статистический анализ гендерных проблем в туризме с использованием базы данных Скопус

Различные публикации по гендерным вопросам в туризме были собраны и отобраны с использованием одной из самых популярных баз данных Scopus. Научными работами считаются публикации последних 2 десятилетий (между 2004–2023 гг.). Анализатор Scopus анализирует научные публикации по году, источнику, стране и т. д. используется для получения некоторых результатов анализа, таких как VOSviewer версии 1.6.17 используется для анализа различных объектов, таких как соавторство и совместное появление. Статистический анализ и сетевой анализ показали наибольшее количество документов, опубликованных в 2022 и 2023 годах, при этом наибольшее количество публикаций было в Испании. Результаты также показывают, что, хотя количество публикаций в первые 10 лет очень мало и рост остается неизменным, количество статей, опубликованных в последующие 10 лет, в целом постепенно увеличивалось, и с 2021 года этот рост был плавным и интенсивным. На долю исследователей из Испании, Великобритании, США и Австралии пришлось более 50% всех статей, опубликованных во всем мире, опередив 59 других стран и территорий. Кроме того, три наиболее продуктивных института из топ-10 организаций по публикациям принадлежат вышеупомянутым странам. Можно сказать, что исследование гендерного вопроса в туризме является инициативой ученых демократически развитых англоязычных стран и некоторых стран Запада, а массовый интерес пробудился только после окончания периода пандемии COVID-19. Сетевой анализ различных условий показывает, что существует множество возможностей внести вклад в дальнейшие исследования женского лидерства, расширения прав и возможностей и занятости.

Ключевые слова: Гендерный вопрос, туризм, база данных Scopus, библиометрический анализ.

Introduction

Currently, gender issues have become one of the relevant topics in tourism research. The basis of tourism development is a gendered society consisting of representatives of both sexes. Development of tourism and development of activities related to tourism include gender relations. The variability and complexity of gender relations directly affect the sustainable development of tourism. The study of tourism issues from the perspective of gender has a very important theoretical and practical value, therefore it attracts more and more attention from scientists. The concept of gender appeared in the second wave of Western feminism (1963-1980). In order to emphasize the role of social culture in gender, feminists of that time proposed to distinguish between genders, concluding that people have two genders: one is biological gender and the other is social gender, that is, genders created by society and culture. The formulation of this theory not only interprets the meaning of the concepts of masculinity

and femininity with the limited differences represented by physiological sexes but also transforms the relations between the sexes into their social hierarchy and power relations. The integration of gender theory in the study of tourism began in the 70s of the 20th century. Feminist tourism scholars have tried to criticize society in order to protect women, a socially weak and marginalized group. The content of the study includes the impact of tourism on the social culture of the host country, crime and social problems caused by tourism and many other aspects (Armstrong L., 2018). In the mid-90s of the 20th century, with the deepening of feminist academic research and the convening of the IV World Conference on Women, gender research in tourism also reached its peak.

In the past 40 years, with the rapid development of the feminist movement and academia around the world, great changes have taken place in gender studies from the discipline system to the academic theory. To accomplish growth and sustainable development, gender equality and the empowerment

of women are essential, as without them, half of humankind would be deprived of rights and opportunities (Cf O., 2015). Gender equality is included as the fifth priority aim in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which the United Nations (UN) has identified as a crucial issue for growth and development. Tourism studies in marketing, human resources, entrepreneurship, development, planning, and many other fields have been becoming more and more interested in applying a gender perspective recently (Alarcón D. M., Cole S. 2019; Costa C. et al., 2017; Figueroa-Domecq C. et al., 2020; Figueroa-Domecq C. et al., 2015; Mooney S.K., 2020; Pritchard A., Morgan N., 2017; Segovia-Pérez M. et al., 2019). It is also shown that there is a lot of room for growth and advancement in this field of study (Chambers D., 2017; Tribe J., 2006). Additionally, as the World Tourism Organization for the UN has noted (2011, 2019), the intersection of gender and tourism is a field that necessitates a deeper comprehension of the relationship between the participation of a wide range of social actors, including researchers, entrepreneurs, employees, tourists, public administration, Non-Governmental Organizations, etc. (Chambers D. et al., 2017).

All the different scientific fields have tended to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) since the United Nations declared them in 2015, and one of the most prominent of these was tourism. Goal No. 5 of the SDGs was “Gender Equality”, which opened the door for the development of a variety of gender-related research projects in the tourist industry (UN, 2015). Gender equality is a key sign of sustainable tourism, where the sustainability of tourism is improved by enhancing women’s situations (Alarcón D. M., Cole S., 2019). At the same time, the condition of women is gradually improving thanks to the tourism sector (Cohen S.A., Cohen E., 2019; Rinaldi A., Salerno I., 2020). Significant attention has been given to how tourism might improve women’s employment and income in order to advance gender equality (Ferguson L., 2011). However, research and education related to gender equality in the tourism industry are still very important. The SDGs’ fifth goal, which relates to the empowerment of women, is divided into a few sub-goals that aim to promote gender equality. These sub-goals included involvement in community and civil society, employment, entrepreneurship, education and training, leadership, and decision-making, etc.

Therefore, based on these conditions, there were prerequisites for the need for research in the field of gender issues in tourism development. This article aims to analyze the global research trends in gender issues in the tourism industry using Scopus database publications. The tasks set by the researchers are to identify the main problems of gender aspects in tourism development. This is supported by the evolution in feminist paradigms, the new potential research methods and the project’s design, from a gender perspective. This conceptual framework aims to provide a theoretical framework that enhances the development of gender research in tourism.

Literature review

In the study of gender and tourists or the concept of gender in tourism, based on the theory of “Holland’s personality type” by EA Frew and R. N. Shaw, Italian scientists proved that there is a significant relationship between the personality type, gender and travel behavior of tourists (Frew E.A., Shaw R.N., 1999). In terms of tourism motives, male tourists prefer physical training, adventure and recreation, while female tourists mainly show cultural, commercial, and romantic motives. Women’s age is the main factor influencing travel motivation. British scientist N. Carr says that most women after the age of 50 are gradually freed from the burdens of family and children, and start to focus more on their own needs, thus increasing their desire to travel, while young women between the ages of 19 and 25 associate tourism with entertainment and cultural activities. If we observe elderly female tourists, it was found that they often have stronger motivations for medical tourism than other age groups (Chaulagain S. et al., 2021).

In terms of tourism reception, tourists’ focus on safety is an important research content. Many studies by scientists have shown that women pay more attention to safety when traveling than men. Scholars believe that these women’s insecurities are mainly caused by the fear of sex and violence, as women are still the main victims of violence around the world (Kavanagh E. et al., 2019). Chinese scientists believe that women’s insecurity is mainly caused by physical weakness and psychological perception tendencies. This perception directly affects women’s choice of travel mode, travel time and destination (Liu Y. et al., 2022). In terms of tourism decision-making, scholars show that women play

an important role, especially in family tourism decision-making. Canadian University of Ottawa scientist A. Zalatan pointed out through a survey that female participation is the highest in the entire tourism decision-making process, especially in destination selection and information gathering (Chevtaeva E., 2022). However, Austrian scientist H. Richard's research showed that women rarely participate in activities related to money during family travel (Rietveld A. et al., 2020).

The increase in the number and frequency of women's trips, and the increase in tourist expenses have drawn the attention of economic scientists to the study of women's role in the tourism market. Chinese scholar Wang Yekai believes that travel companies should create travel itineraries that guarantee the safety of female tourists and provide hotel and transportation facilities (Westwood S. et al., 2000). According to another Chinese scholar, Ren Liangping, travel agencies should not limit themselves to offering standard travel products, but should offer travel products that give women the freedom to choose, that is, travel agencies should only be responsible for transportation and hotel, leaving food and shopping to their own choice.

Scholars believe that women's traditional gender roles have changed since they became involved in tourism. For example, the New Zealand scholar H. Tucker found that patriarchal traditions limited women to work only in the private sphere of the family, but after participating in tourism, they entered the public sphere and acquired new gender roles. After the women of the Bak Kiga area in southwestern Uganda became involved in ecotourism in their communities, their traditional gender roles also changed and they expanded their autonomy in income distribution by generating economic income. This change in social gender was even more important in the process of developing domestic ethnic tourism (Tucker H., Boonabaana B. 2012). Some scholars claim that the new social changes and roles that tourism has brought to women's lives are rooted in traditional culture and that most women follow traditional social roles (Campos-Soria J.A. et al., 2011; Purcell K., 1997). That is, the new role is not a violation of the traditional role, but a continuation and complement. Women's participation in tourism activities, in turn, contributed to the better visibility of the original role.

As for the gender characteristics of the division of labor in tourism, tourism is a very important in-

dustry in terms of employment of women, especially in developing countries. In 2011, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) published the "Global Report on Women's Tourism 2010", reporting that one in 12 people in the world is involved in tourism, and two-thirds of them are women. Some women are attracted to the low requirements and flexible work schedule to enter the tourism industry. However, the tourism industry is far from achieving gender equality and gender discrimination is prevalent in all time periods and in all countries. Occupational segregation caused by gender differences in the division of labor is one of the most complex and long-lasting phenomena in the labor market of the developing countries in the world (Wright D.B. et al., 2015). The share of women in low-wage jobs is high, and the share of women in management positions is too low. In terms of employment, most women work in lower-level key service positions, while men are responsible for higher-level management, organizational, and other positions. When it comes to pay, there is a huge gap between women's and men's earnings. The gender pay gap in the tourism industry is stark. In almost all jobs, men are paid more than women. In the United States, the average salary of female accommodation and catering managers is 58% of that of men, while male hotel managers and travel agents in the UK earn 17% more and have 30% more leisure time than women (Twining-Ward L., 2010).

Methodology

Based on the results of the academic literature database, bibliometric analysis study is a mechanistic way to comprehend the global research trends in a certain field. Exploring the significant analytical contributions of academic research and relationships is made possible by bibliometric methods. Thus, the method has assisted in the conceptual growth of various scientific disciplines (Di Stefano G. et al., 2010). This method distinguishes bibliometric analysis papers from review papers, which are primarily meant to address the most recent advancements, difficulties, and potential future directions of a particular issue (Khudzari J.M. et al., 2018).

Data source and search strategy

There are many popular databases worldwide, such as Scopus, web of science, google scholar, Scimago etc. These databases have a very wide range of publications. Out of these Scopus- the most popular

and one of the largest databases, is used for analysis. We found a total of 556 publication results using the keywords (“gender issue” AND “gender equality” OR “gender disparity” AND “tourism”) used in the initial search. There is not any restriction on country, language etc. Each publication has information such as author, country, citations, documents, sources etc. After appropriate screening, this information is used for analysis.

Collection of data for conducting bibliometric analysis went through three main stages. The first step is to select the optimal database that matches our research area and goals. Consequently, Scopus was chosen as the main database to obtain the required data set to be studied through bibliometric analysis. The selection of Scopus was based on several reasons, such as: (i) it contains a wide range of published articles, (ii) it includes journals and publications with a higher index than other databases (e.g. Google Scholar) and (iii) it is more efficient for metric analysis, because it offers complete information of all bibliometric analysis units such as authors, sources and citations (Pranckutė R., 2021).

Bibliometric maps

Citation, bibliographical, and author keywords information of 143 articles were exported to VOSviewer (version 1.6.18), Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University, the Netherlands), a software tool for constructing and visualizing bibliometric maps. Maps created using VOSviewer include items. The items in this study are the subjects of interest, such as the authors’ keywords or the countries. Any pair of items may have a link between them, which is a connection or relationship between the items. The strength of each link is indicated by a positive numerical value. The stronger the relationship, the higher this value. In a co-authorship analysis, the number of publications co-authored by two associated nations is shown by the link strength between them, whilst the number of publications co-authored by all affiliated countries is shown by the overall link strength.

Like co-occurrence analysis, the frequency of publications where two keywords appear together is indicated by the connection strength between author keywords. The user manual for VOSviewer contains information on all its functions (Van Eck and Waltman).

Analysis of co-authorship

In the analysis of co-authorship, we included all 64 countries affiliated with 140 authors and 302 organizations. The minimum number of documents to be examined in VOSviewer was set to 3. The affiliated countries/territories grouped into 5 continents: Africa, America, Asia, Europe and Oceania.

Analysis of co-occurrence

In terms of analyzing co-occurrence of all keywords, author keywords and index keywords, there were 104 all keywords, 30 author keywords and 79 index keywords from 143 articles respectively, which meet the threshold. The minimum number of occurrences of a keyword to be examined in VOSviewer was set to 3. To display the average publication year, frequency, and link strength of the keywords, overlay visualization method was chosen. The color of a keyword denotes the typical publishing year of the documents where it appears.

The second step is to identify academic works according to the research objective and its scientific direction. From January 10, 2024, the authors of this study initially selected 556 published research papers from the Scopus core collection using the search queries shown in Figure 2. In the first step of screening, we excluded improper publications for criteria such as year range (last 20 years) within the found publication to include only research articles from 2004 to 2023, as a result, 457 articles were selected. These articles were then refined by publication stage (only final) and document language (only English), resulting in 448 articles. These notes have undergone extensive research by the authors based on word processing. The first stage was to identify the publications according to the scope and purpose of this research, it was assumed that the articles should be in the area where gender and tourism intersect. In the second stage, we selected articles that considered gender issue as the main demographic dimension in the field of tourism in its context. they were selected according to the following keywords: (“Gender Issue”, “Gender Equality”, “Gender Disparity”, “Womens Status”, “Tourism”, “Gender Role”, “Womens Employment”, “Gender Inequality”, “Gender Discrimination” and “Women’s Empowerment”). As shown in Figure 2, 143 articles were finally identified.

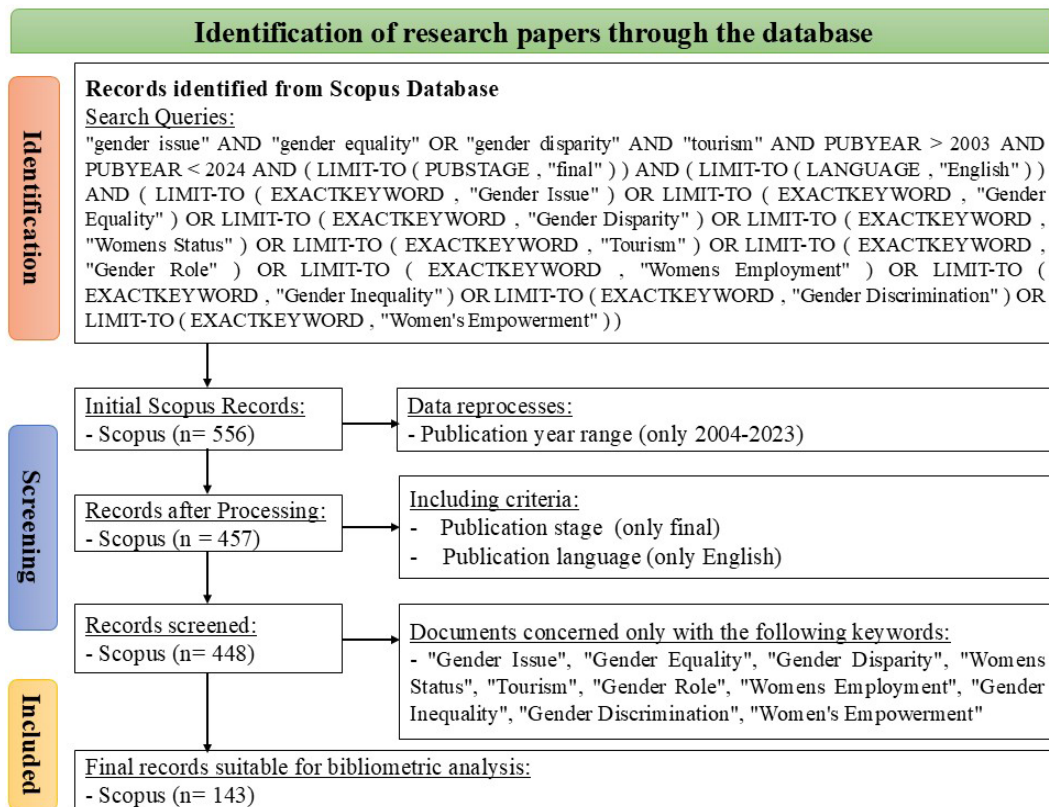


Figure 1 – Diagram of “gender issues in tourism” for data collection and refinements
 Source: <http://www.scopus.com> (assessed on 30th April, 2024)

Results and discussion

Evolution of the scientific production and growth of research form

For a period of 20 years, a total of 143 academic articles have been published in Scopus indexed journals (Figure 2). Figure 2 shows that between 2004 and 2014, the number of Scopus-level articles investigating gender issues in the field of tourism is very low, and the annual publication number fluctuates between 0 and 4.

In 2015, 2017 and 2020, the number of articles suddenly increased and reached to 8, 12 and 17 respectively, but this phenomenon did not continue above mention years, and in their following years the number of annual publications decreased, and only 6, 9 and 15 articles were published each year. Start from 2022, interest in the study of gender tourism suddenly increased again, in 2023 it showed about 2-times increase compared to 2021

(reached from 15 to 29). Consequently, it is anticipated that the annual publication would keep growing.

Gender issues in tourism are addressed in various research disciplines and many research groups around the world are actively working in these areas. Figure 3 provides a pie chart of specific types of documents focused on the Scopus Core collection. Publications on gender issues in tourism research are divided into mainly 6 document types.

Analysis on documents by type showed that gender issue studies in tourism are mainly published in the form of Research Articles (87.4%). The next higher places were occupied by publications classified by the following document types: Book Chapter (5.6%) and Review Papers (4.2%). The documents of Conference Paper form, which occupies 4th place among publications, accounts for 1.4%. The last in terms of publication types are Book and Editorial, which have the same share (0.7%).

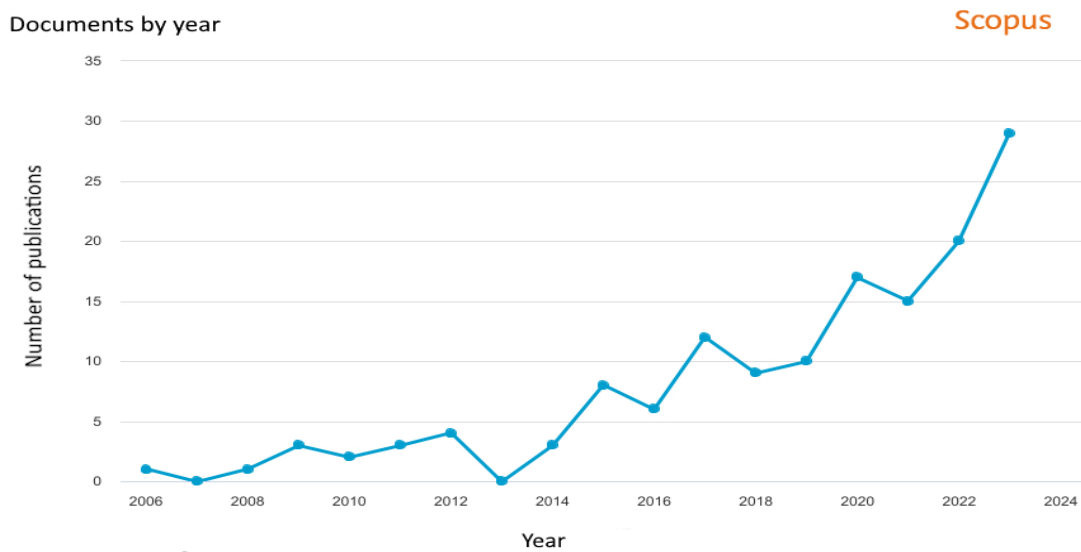


Figure 2 – Dynamics of Scopus research articles on gender issues in tourism between 2004 and 2023
 Source: <http://www.scopus.com> (assessed on 30th April, 2024)

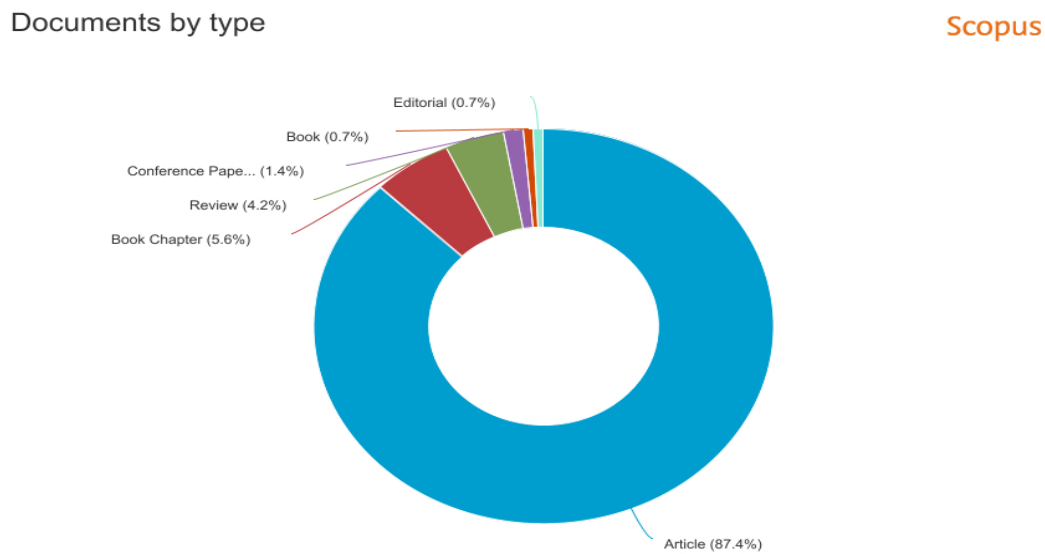


Figure 3 – The numbers of documents by type on gender issue studies in tourism between 2014 and 2023
 Source: <http://www.scopus.com> (assessed on 30th April, 2024)

Leading countries, top institutions, and international collaboration

Figure 4 shows the top 10 most productive countries contributing to the gender issue studies in tourism worldwide. More than 50% of the global publications was contributed by Spain, the United Kingdom, the United States and Australia, indicating mostly English language-based countries are key players in the gender issues research in tourism.

However, Spain was the leading country with 24 publications, covering 17% of the global total publications. The UK was the second most productive country with only 2 publications less than Spain. After that USA and Australia come in the third and fourth country with 19 and 16 publications respectively. Among the 10 most productive countries, India, South Africa and the Norway are in last place with 6, 6 and 5 publications respectively.

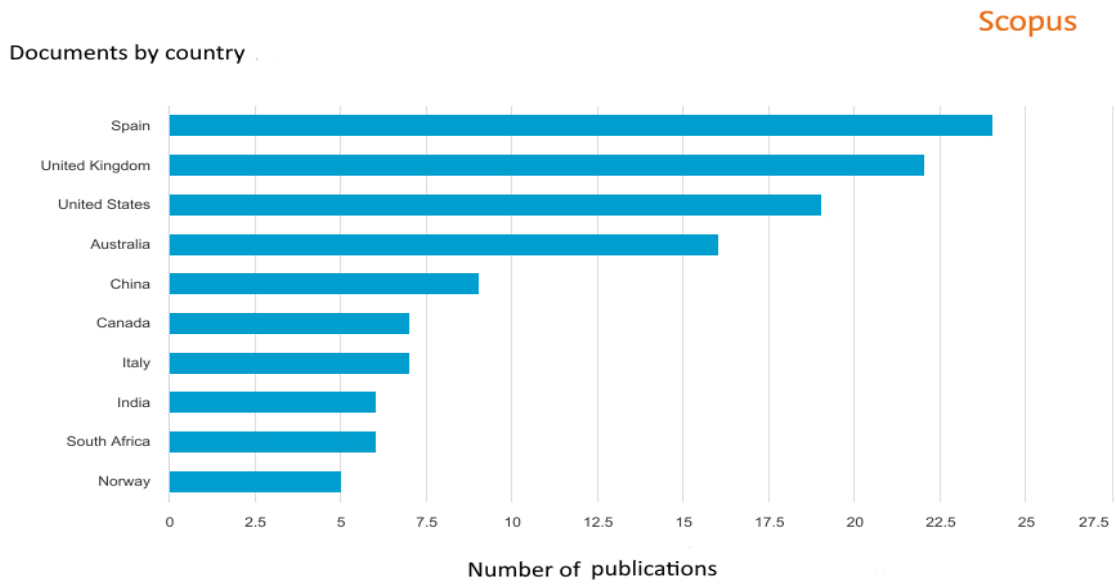


Figure 4 – Top 10 countries with Scopus publications on gender issues in tourism between 2014 and 2023
 Source: <http://www.scopus.com> (assessed on 30th April, 2024)

As shown in Figure 5, regarding the top academic institutions, the University of Johannesburg, Norges Teknisk-Naturvitenskapelige Universitet and Universidad Complutense de Madrid were ranked in first place, with the same number of publications (4). And interestingly the rest 7 institutions were placed in second with the same publications

(3). Surprisingly, the study results show that although English speaking countries are the leader in the number of published articles, their academic institutions are not among the top three. We reasoned that, due to the large number of research institutions in those states, published articles were not usually concentrated in a single organization.

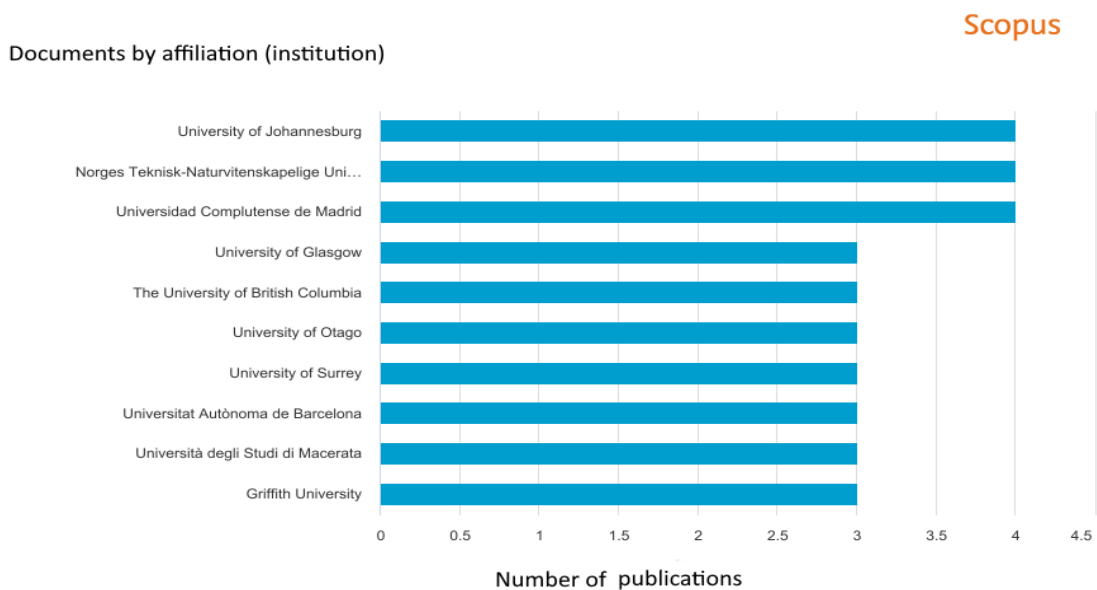


Figure 5 – Top 10 institutions with Scopus articles on gender issues in tourism between 2014 and 2023
 Source: <http://www.scopus.com> (assessed on 30th April, 2024)

The distribution of countries/territories per region is shown in Figure 6. The closer two countries are located to each other in VOSviewer, the stronger their relatedness and the stronger the link between two countries, the thicker the line. The highest number of countries per region came from Asia (14), followed by Europe (11), America (9), Africa (4) and Oceania (2). The findings of co-authorship showed that the U.S was the country with the largest association with 10 co-authorships connected to 7 countries/territories.

Results of co-authorship showed that the Spain and United Kingdom was the most affiliated countries, linked to 11 countries/territories with 24 and 22 times of co-authorship respectively. The list was followed by United States (10 links, 19 co-au-

thorships), Australia (9 links, 16 co-authorships), China (4 links, 9 co-authorships), Italy (4 links, 7 co-authorships), and others. It was also shown that about 85% of the listed countries had international collaborative publications with less than 10 countries. In addition, only the researchers in Japan and Sweden were not affiliated with any other country for publishing articles on gender issue studies in tourism.

The variety of research partners, the large percentage of foreign postgraduates/visiting scholars, and the robust research funding are some potential drivers of the dynamics of international collaboration. To maintain the longevity of international collaboration, it is also critical to have a flexible and reliable research policy.

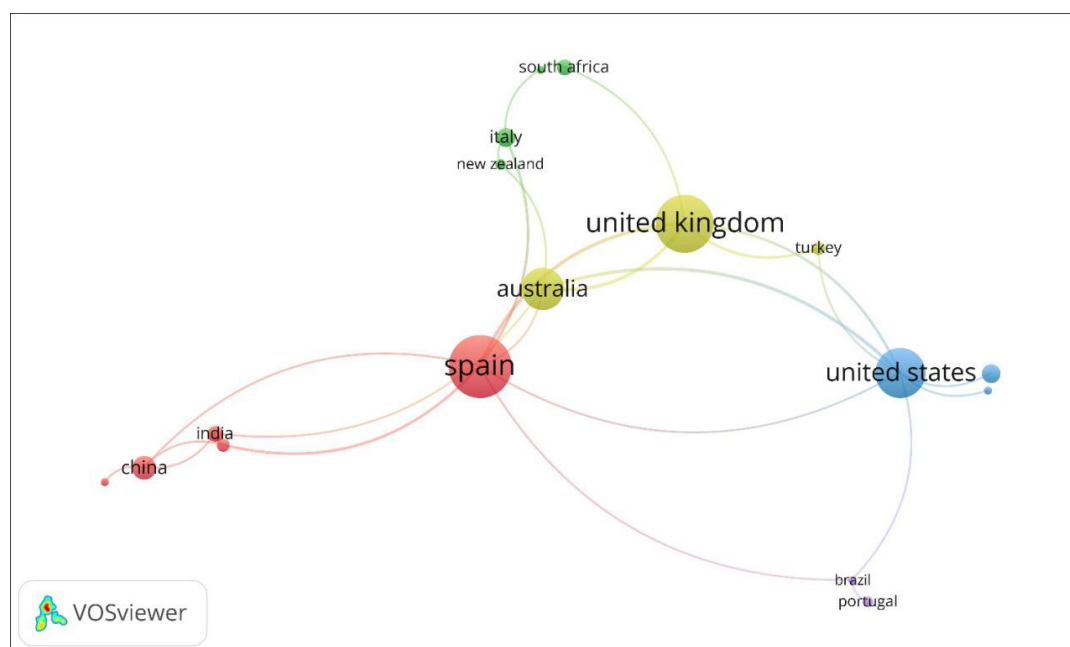


Figure 6 – A screenshot of bibliometric map created based on co-authorships with network visualization mode

Source: <http://www.scopus.com> (assessed on 30th April, 2024)

Author keywords analysis

A total of 527 author keywords were recorded, among which 418 (79.3%) were used only once, 79 keywords (15.0%) were used twice, and 30 (5.7%) were used thrice. After re-labeling synonymic single words and congeneric phrases, 30 keywords met the threshold of minimum 3 occurrences for the mapping in VOSviewer.

Terminology and concept. Our results showed that ‘gender’ was the most frequently encountered keyword with 39 occurrences and 37 links to other

keywords (Figure 7). We also came across the use of general terms such as ‘tourism’ (20 occurrences, 37 links), ‘gender equality’ (46 occurrences, 34 links) and ‘women’ (13 occurrences, 27 links). We also found some attributes—substratum, process, and configuration used to name gender issues in tourism. Examples of substrate/mechanism related it were ‘entrepreneurship’ (5 occurrences, 11 links), ‘empowerment’ (4 occurrences, 8 links), ‘development’ (3 occurrences, 7 links), and ‘employment’ (3 occurrences, 6 links).

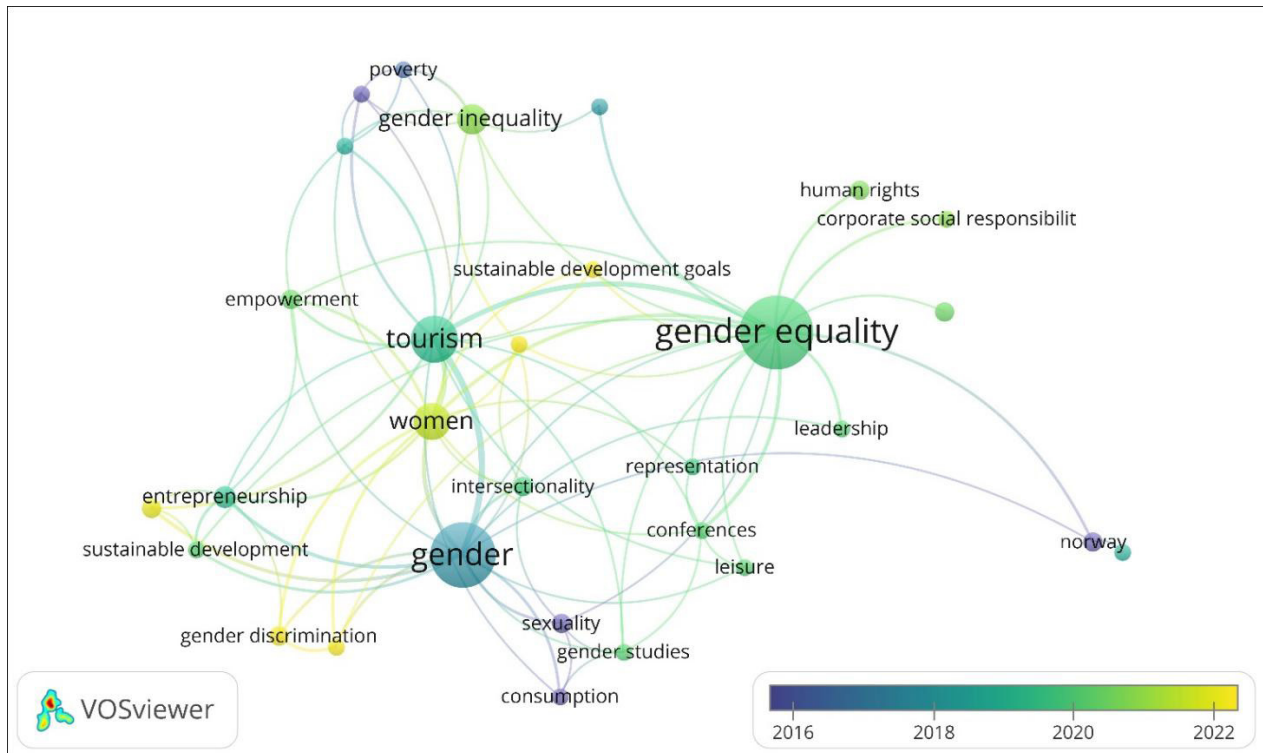


Figure 7 – A bibliometric map of author keywords co-occurrence with overlay visualization mode
Source: <http://www.scopus.com> (assessed on 30th April, 2024)

It is also interesting to see how a particular term is established. For instance, as a term, empowerment originates from American community psychology and is associated with the social scientist Julian Rappaport (1981). However, the roots of empowerment theory extend further into history and are linked to Marxist sociological theory (Burton M., Kagan C. 1996), and it has been popularized in social science. Consequently, the term is widely used in many publications related to the gender incorporating women's empowerment.

Topics of interest

From the results of the analysis of gender issue studies in tourism obtained from our research work, especially from the number of publications in high-ranking journals each year during the period 2004-2023, we can see that researchers have begun to show interest in this topic only in the last 10 years. To analyze what directions the authors were interested in researching this topic, we decided to analyze the main keywords used in the search for scientific articles in this field.

To fully cover the topic of gender in tourism, as indicated in the research method of the article, we selected articles with the title of “gender issue” AND “gender equality” OR “gender dispar-

ity” AND “tourism” in the search. Then we sorted the number of publications using the next 10 keywords that are closest to the topic from among the found keywords. They are “Gender Issue”, “Gender Equality”, “Gender Disparity”, “Womens Status”, “Tourism”, “Gender Role”, “Womens Employment”, “Gender Inequality”, “Gender Discrimination” and “Women’s Empowerment”. The result of the analysis of the number of appearances of the above keywords in VOSviewer was as follows: A total of 527 author keywords was recorded. After re-labeling synonymic single words and congeneric phrases, 30 keywords met the threshold of minimum 3 occurrences for the mapping in VOSviewer. The keywords of “Gender” have been used 37 times and the keywords containing “Tourism” were repeated 20 times. It can be said that these two keywords formed based on the main search topic in our research.

Our results found that one of the most frequently encountered among the main selected intersections in gender tourism research was “Women”. Compared to the other secondary keywords, it appeared the most with 13 occurrences. Although the next ranking keywords “Empowerment” and “Gender inequality” have the same number of “Link strength”

indicator with 8, their occurrences is different, for example, “Gender inequality” has 9 occurrences which is more than twice as much as “Empowerment”. From this we can say that “Gender inequality” is one of the most important points in gender research.

Conclusion

This study has provided an overview of gender issue studies in tourism based on 143 publications retrieved from the Scopus database. Publication growth has been rapid since 2021, and it is anticipated to continue to rise. In our opinion, this breakthrough can relate to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic period. And from the analysis of the format of the publications, we find that almost 90 percent of them are scientific articles. In our opinion, the main reason for this may be that most scientific publishing organizations prioritize the article format documents. We have discovered countries/academic institutions (e.g. Spain, UK, USA and Australia) that have a comparatively a greater number of publications and strong international collaborations, and we concluded that this reflects the fact that women’s rights are well protected in those countries, and the importance is attached to increasing the competence of women. Research into gender issues in tourism is now a global concern thanks to the promotion of these countries. These entities can be an opportunity for researchers from other countries (e.g. India, South Africa and Norway) to broaden their research collaborations. At the same time, a relatively close network of cooperation was formed between countries. Despite many cooperatively authored papers recently, there is still a need to substantially strengthen cooperation among scientific institutions. It should also be noted that while a significant number of

researchers are active in national and international co-authorship networks, some of which are closely clustered, many researchers are still relatively isolated from each other. Can more collaborations between researchers and international co-authorship will certainly lead to fostering even higher quality studies in gender issues in tourism.

The results of the search may not cover all studies related to gender issue studies in tourism available on Scopus by restricting the search of keywords related to gender and tourism in titles and abstracts. This is because some researchers did not refer their systems as gender issues in tourism, but instead using different terms (e.g. women empowerment or employment in tourism industry). Also, co-occurrence analysis of author keywords covered only 90% of 143 articles due to missing author keywords information from certain journals.

Future research comparing the results from several databases, including Google Scholar and Web of Sciences, is advised. In the search results from Web of Science, for instance, a feature known as “hot paper” automatically displays the most popular publications in the subject; this function is still lacking in Scopus. This hot document feature lists important works that receive a lot of attention very quickly after publication, as seen by their rapid and considerable increase in citations. A more thorough investigation will benefit from bibliometric analysis using multiple data sources.

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Conflicts of Interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest.

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