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Integrating Islamic Economics and Climate Finance : A Global Bibliometric Mapping

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ABSTRACT

The escalating concern of climate change has heightened academic focus on institutions of sustainable financing and the role of Islamic financing and finance. Although Islamic social finance, green sukuk, and sustainability have been previously discussed in terms of normative or case-based approaches, a systematic worldwide mapping of the research patterns that combine the Islamic economics perspective with climate finance has not been done in a systematic way. This paper tries to fill this gap by doing a bibliometric review of 126 journal articles located in the Scopus database and published between 2014 and 2025, and additional data is gathered on 25 September 2025. Based on bibliometric indicators and network visualization with VOSviewer, this study focuses on the analysis of trends in publications, partnerships between countries and institutions, journals and authors with the greatest impact, and the co-occurrence of significant research themes. Based on the results, it is possible to note that the number of publications has significantly risen since 2020, which suggests a growing academic interest in the field of Islamic economics in the context of climate finance. The influential states are Malaysia and Indonesia, which does not only imply high academic ability but also the impact of the proactive national policy, regulating frameworks, and institutional support of integrating Islamic finance and green finance. Keyword analysis also demonstrates the centrality of the terms "Islamic finance," "sustainable finance," and "green sukuk" with the emergence of new terms related to fintech, ESG and decentralized finance, as well as the transition to digital and innovative sustainability-focused financial instruments.

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1. Introduction

The problem of climate change has become one of the leading ones in the sphere of development of the entire world, which presupposes the development of sustainable funding mechanisms that should be effective as well as inclusive and ethically based. Climate finance is critical to assist in mitigation and adaptation activities, as well as in terms of intergenerational justice and long-term sustainable development. However, the traditional climate finance models tend to face constraints

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that are concerned with equity, ethical aspects, and social inclusion, especially in the developing and vulnerable economies.

In this respect, Islamic economics provides a normative choice based on the issues of justice, ethics, and sustainability, as stipulated through the aims of maqashid al-sharīah. It is also true that Islamic financial instruments like zakat, waqf, and sukuk are increasingly being realized to have the potential to fund sustainable development projects, including the climate-related projects. The existing literature indicates that the concept of Islamic finance is in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and, in particular, those that focus on environmental sustainability and social justice (Harun & Rahmat, 2025; Kasri & Badruddin, 2025). In addition, other tools, including green sukuk and climate-compliant bonds, have been mentioned as one of the possible means of climate mitigation project financing that complies with the Sharia principles (Rahim et al., 2024).

The increases in the applicability of Islamic finance to such emerging fields as green finance, blue economy development, and sustainable resource management are also highlighted in existing literature (Abdur-Rauf et al., 2025; Almustafa, 2025; Mohamed, 2020). Empirical and theoretical research indicates that the countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, and MENA region countries have been at the forefront in promoting Islamic finance frameworks in terms of sustainability and climate action (Aassouli, 2021; Delle Foglie & Keshminder, 2024). Besides that, recent debates also emphasize the likely contribution of digital technologies, such as fintech, blockchain, and artificial intelligence, to the effectiveness and reach of Islamic finance for the purposes of sustainable development (Hidayata et al., 2024; Smolo & Mahomedb, 2024).

The non-unified literature on Islamic economics and climate finance is based on the fact that the literature is not well-developed and organized despite the growing number of studies. The current literature is highly specialized, with limited work done on global-level analysis covering instruments, regions, or policy debate. Moreover, systematic evaluations of the trends in research, the development of themes, and patterns of collaboration on the international and institutional level are still uncommon (Fodol & Aslan, 2025). Islamic finance and climate finance need to be examined on the socio-political level, and a cross-regional comparative approach also demands additional academic consideration (Harun & Rahmat, 2025; Sakuntala et al., 2025).

In these weaknesses, a systematic and informed summary of the literature presently available is required to appreciate the development, design, and future of research pertaining to the topic of Islamic economics and climate finance. Bibliometric analysis is a strong methodological procedure that can respond to this requirement, as it allows mapping the trends of publications, existing themes, and academic networks on an international scale.

This research will, therefore, seek to undertake a worldwide bibliometric mapping of the literature regarding Islamic economics and climate finance. In particular, this research aims to study the evolution of academic production, establish both prevailing and new research themes, examine major and minor social countries and institutions, and specify possible future research directions. In such a way, the paper would fill the increasing body of knowledge on sustainable finance and provide information to policymakers, Islamic financial institutions, and other stakeholders engaged in developing ethical and innovative financial solutions to the global climate crisis.

2. Literature Review

2.1. Islamic Finance and Climate Resilience

It has been increasingly viewed that Islamic finance is a viable tool for improving climate resilience, especially with its focus on ethical finance, risk-sharing, and social welfare. Earlier research indicates the possibility of Islamic financial instruments to fund climate-resilient infrastructure and recovery trajectories and recovery in the post-COVID-19 environment (Salim Refas, Kate Hunghes, Esmyra Javier, Ahmed Al-Qabany, 2022). Specifically, it has been established that Islamic social finance, including zakat and waqf, can be incorporated as the most effective method of financing green projects and also supporting social justice and community empowerment (Abbas & Aravossis, 2024).

In the wider literature on climate finance, academic focus has increased substantially since the Paris Agreement, with increased focus on the financing of renewable energy and the role played by financial systems in dealing with the challenges posed by climate (Kouwenberg & Zheng, 2023). Islamic social finance (ISF) has also been introduced in this case as a complementary climate finance mechanism, which is very close to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and can be utilized to deal with environmental issues in combination with humanitarian and social goals (Tok et al., 2022). The body of these studies indicates the conceptual alignment between the principles of Islamic finance and climate resilience strategies, but they also suggest a lack of analytical integration on financial, environmental, and institutional levels.

2.2. Research Trends in Islamic Economics

On top of thematic conversations, a number of studies have discussed the evolution of Islamic economics and finance research in the methods of bibliometrics and systematic review. According to existing bibliometric analysis, there has been a significant growth in Islamic banking and finance publications since the end of the 2010s, which suggests the maturation and diversification of the sphere (A. S. Rusydiana et al., 2020; Sercan, 2024). Nevertheless, the majority of this literature is still focused on the traditional issues of banking efficiency, financial performance, and risk

management, and few studies are devoted to climate finance and environmental sustainability.

Additionally, although quantitative methods are the major ones in Islamic economics literature, the available bibliometric research is more likely to map out the overall research output and not look at how Islamic finance intersects with climate-related financial processes. This is a weakness, especially in comparison to bibliometric studies within the green finance domain that have come to tie financial instruments to environmental performance metrics like carbon emission reduction and climate mitigation performance (Zhang et al., 2022). Consequently, the current literature fails to reflect the changing nature of Islamic finance in the larger climate finance ecosystem.

These gaps underscore the need to have a specific bibliometric mapping on Islamic economics and climate finance. This is necessary to detect new research themes, intellectual frameworks, and interdisciplinary connections that are not visible in larger reviews of Islamic finance or green finance. A narrow bibliometric study will help understand the contribution of Islamic finance to climate-related debate in the global arena more precisely by going beyond general publication volumes and methodological directions.

2.3. Challenges and Opportunities

Although Islamic finance provides immense opportunities in terms of the development of climate-related projects, the literature also shows that there are still numerous challenges. They are an uneven implementation of the various jurisdictions, restricted access to standardized information, and variability in terms of institutional capacity (Abbas & Aravossis, 2024). To overcome these issues, there is a need to have more empirical data on validating the long-term effects of incorporating instruments of Islamic finance into climate finance plans.

Likewise, the latest advances in methodology in Islamic economics, especially in profit-and-loss sharing models, imply the necessity of new methods of analysis, which would introduce ethical and sustainability aspects into financial modeling (A. Rusydiana et al., 2021). On the policy level, most studies observe that economic and political factors still present a challenge to the successful incorporation of climate-oriented Islamic finance practices, despite the normatively placed focus on environmental stewardship in countries that predominantly follow Islam (Turkamani, 2023). These problems also call attention to the systematic research on a global level that could inform the academic discussion and policy development.

3. Research Method

The objective of this study is to identify, map, and visualize the global research landscape on Islamic economics and climate finance using bibliometric analysis.

3.1. Research design

A bibliometric analysis and bibliometric visualization are used in this study to analyze the structure and trends of scholarly publications concerning Islamic economics and climate finance and their thematic development. Bibliometric review is a quantitative methodology, i.e., the identification of patterns of research, publication processes, and structures of intellects in a particular discipline through descriptive and evaluative methods (Dupi, Muhamad., 2025; Dupi & Baloch, 2025b). The concept of bibliometric visualization is used to demonstrate the relationships between authors, keywords, countries, institutions, and journals using networks (Dupi & Baloch, 2025a; Garfield, 2009).

3.2. Research Subject

The research solely makes use of the Scopus database as the source of bibliography information. Scopus was chosen because it has a wide range of peer-reviewed journals and its usefulness in bibliometric studies. The data was accessed on 25 September 2025, ensuring that it remains consistent and reproducible in the same manner as when it was analyzed. Data were collected using the following search query applied to the TITLE-ABS-KEY fields: TITLE-ABS-KEY (("Islamic finance" OR "Islamic banking" OR "Islamic economics" OR "Islamic social finance") AND ("climate finance " OR "green finance" OR "sustainable finance" OR "climate change" OR "environmental finance")) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2026. The first search had 128 documents. Upon filtering the articles by year of publication (2014-2025) and document type (articles only), 126 articles remained, and they comprise the sample of the given study.

3.3. Research Indicator

The selected publications were analyzed using VOSviewer software to conduct network, overlay, and density visualizations. The bibliometric indicators examined in this study include: Number of publications, Citation counts, Co-authorship networks (authors, countries, and institutions), Co-occurrence of author keywords, and source (journal) relationships. To ensure analytical clarity, thresholds were applied within VOSviewer. For example, minimum occurrence thresholds were set for author keywords and co-authorship analysis to exclude infrequently occurring items and enhance the interpretability of the visual maps. Link strength was used to measure the intensity of relationships between items in each network.

3.4. Research Procedure

All of the data on publications that have been gathered in this field, including bibliographic pairs of authors, countries, institutions, journals, and events with author keywords, were analyzed, visualized, and evaluated in this study using VOSviewer software (Oyewola & Dada, 2022; Sovacool et al., 2022; van Eck & Waltman, 2010, 2017). Software called VOSviewer is used to create network representations of phrases that are often used in a certain field. VOSviewer is a popular and highly helpful tool for bibliometric analysis (Shah et al., 2020). VOSviewer is used not only to create network visualizations but also to analyze the evolution of certain fields by examining

the often used phrases (Huang et al., 2022). According to Tianji Huang , (Dewi et al., 2021) There are 5 stages of research in bibliometric analysis as follows.

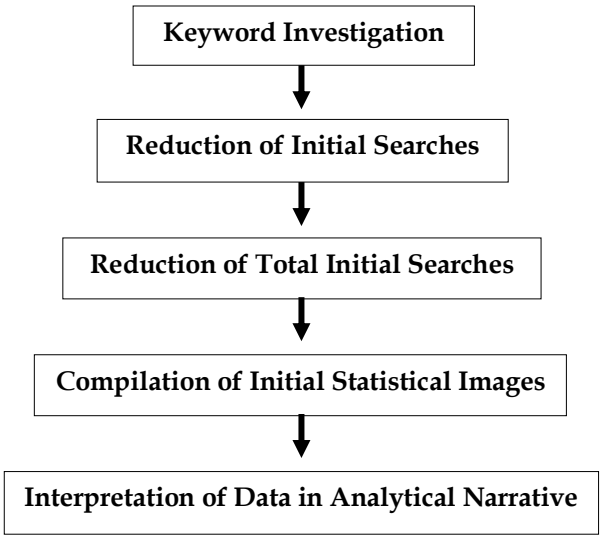

Figure 1. Phases of The Method of Bibliometric Analysis

The bibliometric analysis approach consists of five steps, as shown in the figure above. The first stage is Keyword Investigation, where before collecting data, researchers determine keywords that focus on TITLE-ABS-KEY (("Islamic finance" OR "Islamic banking" OR "Islamic economics" OR "Islamic social finance" AND ("climate finance " OR "green finance" OR "sustainable finance" OR "climate change" OR "environmental finance")) AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2026. In addition, the process of grouping or clustering searches that focus only on predetermined keywords is known as the "Initial Search Reduction" stage. At this stage, researchers search for relevant publications using these keywords in the Scopus database.

The third one is called the Initial Search Reduction and involves the process of manually choosing every search result. At this stage, researchers determine thresholds based on study requirements using the VOSviewer program. After that, the fourth stage is Initial Statistical Image Compilation, which is the process of grouping data as a description of topics. During this procedure, the visualization results on pairs of country bibliographies, organizations, journals, publications, and authors are compiled, along with the co-occurrence of author keywords. The final stage is Data Interpretation in Analytical Narrative, which provides an explanation of the study conclusions resulting from the selection process. VOSviewer is used to understand the data, and the resulting visualization displays the data as a map of variables related to the study keywords. These visualization results also provide insights into opportunities for further development in Islamic Economics and Climate finance.

Researchers used the following keywords, and 128 publications on Islamic Economics and Climate finance were first found in the Scopus database: TITLE-ABS-KEY (("Islamic finance" OR "Islamic banking" OR "Islamic economics" OR "Islamic social finance") AND ("climate finance" OR "green finance" OR "sustainable finance" OR "climate change" OR "environmental finance") AND PUBYEAR > 2013 AND PUBYEAR < 2026. However, the number was reduced to 126 articles after the

researchers filtered them based on the years 2014–2025 and Publication Type, specifically articles in the Scopus database. As shown in the following table:

Table 1. Publishings related to Islamic Economics and Climate finance (2014-2025)

No	Year	Documents	Percentage (%)
1	2025	35	27,78
2	2024	53	42,06
3	2023	7	5,56
4	2022	7	5,56
5	2021	9	7,14
6	2020	5	3,97
7	2019	2	1,59
8	2018	3	2,38
9	2017	2	1,59
10	2016	1	0,79
11	2015	1	0,79
12	2014	1	0,79
Total		126	100

Source: Scopus

Table 1 shows the development of the number of publications on Islamic Economics and Climate finance in the period 2014–2025 based on Scopus data. During the initial period (2014–2019), the number of publications was still very limited, with an average of less than five articles per year. In fact, in 2014, 2015, and 2016, there was only one document (0.79%). Starting in 2020, there was a more consistent increase, with the number of publications reaching five to nine articles per year. The greatest growth was in 2024, when the balance of publications grew three times, to 53 documents (42.06%), which is an indicator of more academic interest in the problem of Islamic economic integration and climate finance. Although in 2025 the number of publications decreased slightly to 35 documents (27.78%), this figure is still much higher than in previous years. Comprehensively, this tendency shows that research on Islamic economics and climate finance is gaining traction and importance in the context of the global scholarly discourse, which corresponds to the growing urgency of the sustainability concerns and the green financial transition.

3.5. Data Analysis Techniques

The interpretation of results was based on a deductive analytical approach that proceeded from the general patterns of publications to more specific structural relations. The analysis includes bibliographic coupling of authors, journals, institutions, and countries, as well as co-occurring author keywords (Karakus et al., 2019). The method allows developing a thorough insight into the intellectual framework and development of the study regarding Islamic economics and climate finance.

4. Result & Discussion

Researchers make their findings in a deductive manner. To make the readers track the information provided in general to particular, the results of the bibliometric analysis are provided in the deductive order, beginning with the general findings and then moving towards the more specific ones. Such can be country bibliographic pairs, institutional bibliographic pairs, journal bibliographic pairs, publication bibliographic pairs, author bibliographic pairs, and co-occurrence of author keywords (Karakus et al., 2019).

Table 2. Top 10 Most Cited Publications on Islamic Economics and Climate finance

No	Title	Authors	Source / Journal	Citations
1	*Challenges for the Islamic finance and banking in post-COVID era and the role of FinTech*	(Hassan et al., 2020)	*Journal of Economic Cooperation and Development*, 41(3), pp. 93–116	146
2	*Ecologies of green finance: Green sukuk and development of green Islamic finance in Malaysia*	(Liu & Lai, 2021)	*Environment and Planning A*, 53(8), pp. 1896–1914	93
3	*Embracing FinTech in Islamic Finance in the post-COVID era*	(Rabbani et al., 2020)	*2020 International Conference on Decision Aid Sciences and Application (DASA)*	41
4	*An innovative model for the sustainability of investments in the wind energy sector: The use of green sukuk in an Italian case study*	(Morea & Poggi, 2017)	*International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy*, 7(2), pp. 53–60	41
5	*What drives green sukuk? A leader's perspective*	(Abdullah & Keshminder, 2022)	*Journal of Sustainable Finance and Investment*, 12(3), pp. 985–1005	37
6	*Development and evaluation of Islamic green financing: A systematic review of green sukuk*	(Alam et al., 2023)	*Environmental Economics*, 14(1), pp. 61–72	36
7	*Islamic finance and renewable energy: An innovative model for the sustainability of investments*	(Morea & Poggi, 2016)	*Aeit 2016 International Annual Conference on Sustainable Development in the Mediterranean Area*	31
8	*Islamic Finance and Sustainable Development: A Sustainable Economic Framework for Muslim and Non-Muslim Countries*	(Hassan et al., 2021)	Book: *Islamic Finance and Sustainable Development*	28
9	*Challenges and opportunities of SRI sukuk toward financial system sustainability: A bibliometric and systematic literature review*	(Delle Foglie & Keshminder, 2024)	*International Journal of Emerging Markets*, 19(10), pp. 3202–3225	27
10	*Shariah-compliant finance: A possible novel paradigm for green economy investments in Italy*	(Campisi et al., 2018)	*Sustainability (Switzerland)*, 10(11), 3915	24

Source: Scopus

4.1. Country Bibliography Pair

The dominance of Malaysian and Indonesian participation in the country's collaborative network can be viewed not only as a numerical phenomenon but also as a reflection of the structural and institutional elements involved in the development

of Islamic finance and climate-related studies. Both nations have strongly facilitated Islamic finance as national financial architecture and are backed by an extensive regulatory framework, dedicated research institutions, and sustainability agendas that are supported by the governments. The leadership could be attributed to the fact that Malaysia is one of the oldest global centers of Islamic finance with such active policies of green sukuk issuance and integration of Islamic social finance as well as close cooperation between universities and industries and government. Equally, the high ranking of Indonesia corresponds to the growing policy focus on sustainable finance, the emergence of the Islamic capital market, and the national efforts to integrate Islamic finance with climate action and the Sustainable Development Goals. The trends in international collaboration observed hence imply that commitment to policy, institutional capacity, and regulatory support are significant elements that influence research productivity and cross-country connections in Islamic economics and climate finance.

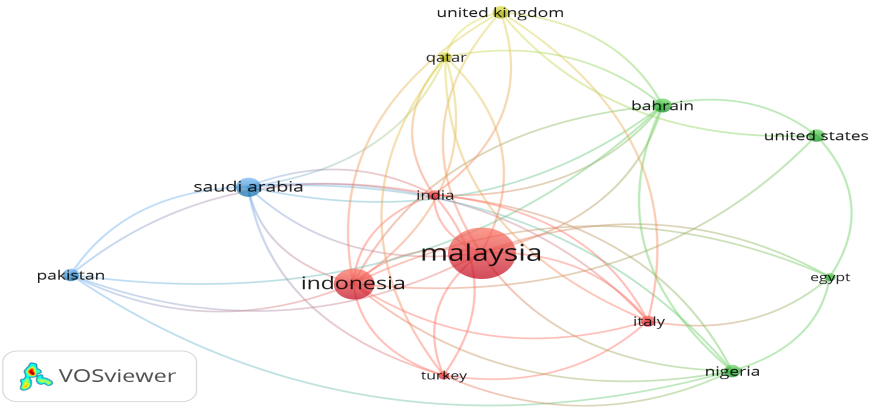

Figure 2. Network Visualization of Pairs of Country Bibliographies.

The image above, which shows a visualization of the network, displays bibliographic pairs between countries. At this stage, we used criteria whereby a country must have at least 4 publications and 15 citations. Of the 35 countries, 13 countries met these criteria. With a total link strength of 292, 139 citations, and 46 publications, Malaysia leads the world in overall link strength. In second place is Indonesia with a total link strength of 259, 108 citations, and 23 publications. In addition, to display other countries, researchers will sort them as follows: the first number is the total link strength, the second number is the number of citations, and the third number is the number of publications. These countries are: India (118, 49, 5), Nigeria (110, 17, 7), Saudi Arabia (107, 33, 12), Bahrain (88, 185, 8), Egypt (51, 21, 4), Qatar (49, 15, 5), Italy (48, 136, 6), Pakistan (44, 36, 7), United Kingdom (38, 92, 7), United States (29, 179, 7), Turkey (19, 30, 4).

The results of bibliometric mapping show that international collaboration in research related to Islamic Economics and Climate finance is divided into four main clusters. Cluster 1 consists of India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, and Turkey, which shows a strong connection between Asian and European countries in developing the

discourse on Islamic economics and climate finance. The cluster 2 consists of Bahrain, Egypt, Nigeria, and the United States, which portrays the cross-regional cooperation between Nigeria, Africa, and America. Cluster 3 includes Pakistan and Saudi Arabia, which symbolizes close collaboration among nations with a high background in the Islamic finance systems. In the meantime, Cluster 4 includes Qatar and the United Kingdom, which means that there is a special relationship between the countries of the Gulf and European financial centers. Overall, this map shows that research in this field is becoming increasingly integrated globally, while still showing regional groupings based on the interests and collaborative strengths of each country.

4.2. Institution Bibliography Pair

Illustration 4 presents institutional bibliographies that have overlay visualizations. Researchers used a threshold at this stage, whereby the minimum number of publications from an institution was 5 publications that had been cited by at least 9 sources. Of the 162 institutions, only 5 met this threshold. Researchers ranked institutions based on total link strength, with the International Islamic University Malaysia, Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia ranking first with 126 total link strength, 21 citations, and 21 publications. This was followed by the International Islamic University Malaysia with 123 total link strength, 12 citations, and 9 publications. The first number is the total link strength, the second number is the number of citations and the third number is the number of publications, Universiti Teknologi MARA, Shah Alam, Malaysia (58, 64, 5), Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (34, 9, 5), University of Bahrain, Zallaq, Bahrain (5, 173, 5).

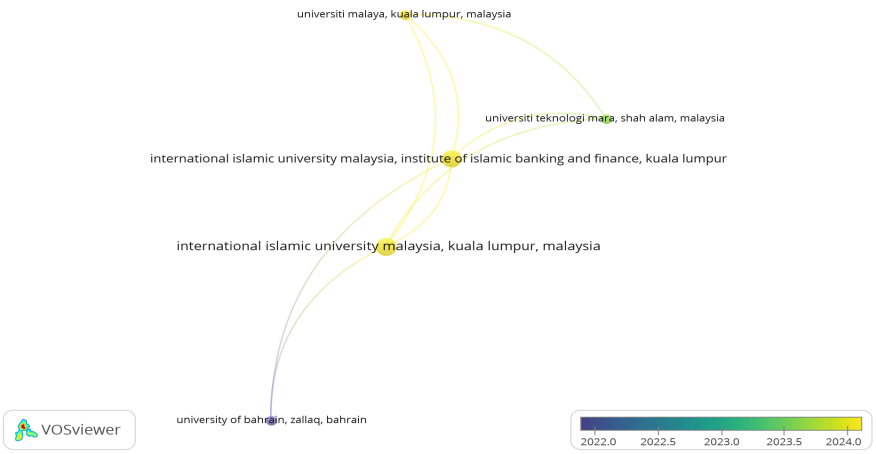

Figure 3. Overlays of pairs of Institution bibliographies were visualized.

Figure 4 presents inter-institutional bibliographic overlays for visualization that can be used to identify patterns of research collaboration in the areas of Islamic Economics and Climate Finance. It can be seen that the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM), both through its main campus and the Institute of Islamic Banking and Finance, is the main hub of the collaboration network with strong connections to various other institutions. IIUM has close ties with Universiti

Teknologi MARA and Universiti Malaya, indicating the dominance of Malaysian institutions in this research. Further, the University of Bahrain also becomes a powerful partner, but with a weaker degree of relationships than the relationships in the network of institutions in Malaysia. This trend suggests that Malaysia serves as a research hub, while Bahrain expands the scope of collaboration to an international level.

The hegemony of Malaysian institutions especially that of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM) can be seen beyond what is being published or the number of network positions. This preeminence can be probably explained by the long-term governmental interest of Malaysia in the development of Islamic finance as the strategic state agenda that is backed by the effective and stable regulation frameworks, research funds, and the effective cooperation of academic institutions, industry, and policymakers. The active engagement of Malaysia in sustainable finance, previously manifested in the form of green sukuk projects, as well as the Islamic social finance tools, has provided a favorable research environment that facilitates the institution collaboration and publicity. In the meantime, the existence of the University of Bahrain as a more peripheral but equally relevant partner implies that, although Bahrain is playing a crucial role in Islamic finance research, its research collaboration network in climate finance is more focused and decentralized in contrast to Malaysia. This tendency suggests that it is not only the scholarly ability that impacts the institutional dominance in this area, but also the national policy orientation and the institutional support of the research on Islamic finance and sustainability.

4.3. Journal Bibliography Pair

Illustration 5 demonstrates two journal bibliographies that have density visualization. The density of a journal is indicated by its yellow color. The more relevant articles in a journal, the more intense the yellow color becomes. At this stage, researchers use a threshold, which states that a journal must have at least 2 articles that have received at least 5 citations. Of the 47 journals, only 6 journals met this threshold. Researchers ranked journals based on total link strength, with the Journal of Environmental Economics ranking highest with 5 total link strength, 47 citations, and 2 publications, followed in order by the Journal of Dakwah Risalah, Journal of Dakwah Science, Komunika Journal of Dakwah and Communication, Akademika Journal of Islamic Thought, Anida (Actualization of Dakwah Science Nuances), Digital Muslim Review, Mediakita, Journal of Dakwah and Communication, Journal of Islamic Communication, Komunike, and Muharrik Journal of Dakwah and Social.

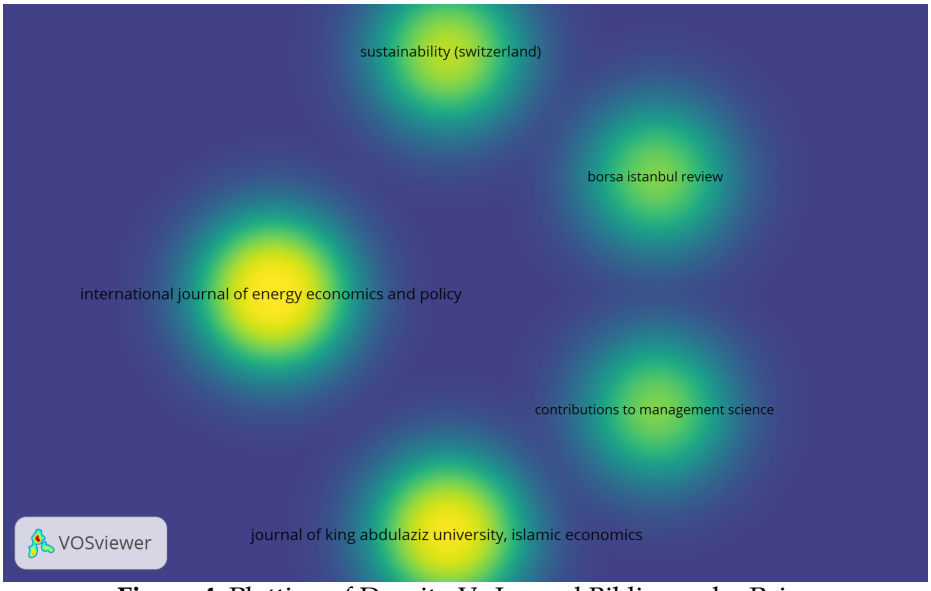

Figure 4. Plotting of Density Vs Journal Bibliography Pairs.

The image above shows a visualization of the density of journal bibliographic pairs, where there are several journals that have strong links in related fields of study. The International Journal of Energy Economics and Policy looks like the center of the highest density, meaning that it is the most dominant when it comes to literature. Sustainability (Switzerland) is also prominent, which means that it contributes considerably to sustainability research. Borsa Istanbul Review, Contributions to Management Science, and Journal of King Abdulaziz University, Islamic Economics also can be considered as significant points, but with a lower level of intensity. This visualization reflects the distribution and relationships between journals in contributing academic knowledge in the fields of energy economics, sustainability, management, and Islamic economics.

4.4. Bibliographic Pairs of Publications

Illustration 6, which displays a network visualization, shows bibliographic pairs from publications. At this point, researchers apply a threshold, i.e. an article has to have at least 13 citations. Among the 126 publications, 14 publications are over this threshold and the first publication is celle foglie (2024) with contains 24 citations and a link strength of 6, followed by endri (2022) with 16 citations and a 6 link strength, then in order, alam (2023) (5, 31), liu (2021) (2, 84), campisi (2018) (2, 23), Morea (2016) (2, 30), abdullah (2022) (1, 35), raimi (2024) (0, 15), hassan (2021) (0, 23), ma'ruf (2021) (0, 13), rabbani (2020) (0.38), hassan (2020) (0.133), morea (2017) (0.40), abdel-baki (2014) (0.19).

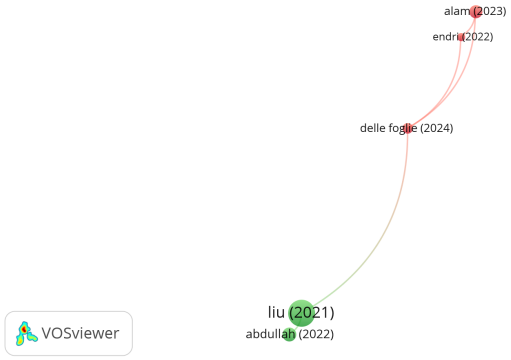

Figure 5. Publication Bibliographic Pairs Network Visualization.

The image shows a visualization network of publication bibliographies that illustrates the connections between documents based on similarities in references. It can be seen that Liu (2021) and Abdullah (2022) form a strongly interconnected cluster, representing a similar research focus. In the meantime, the other cluster consists of Alam (2023), Endri (2022), and Delle Foglie (2024), which are relatively close to each other, which means those researchers share similar research themes. The relationship between clusters shows the existence of citation bridges connecting the two research groups, which reveals literature interaction even though the focus of the studies has different emphases. In general, this network illustrates the presence of two major research communities with moderately strong interconnections via some publications.

4.5. Author's Bibliographic Pairing

Illustration 7, which shows the overlay view, displays bibliographic pairs for authors. At this stage, we use thresholds, where the minimum number of documents for an author is 3, and the minimum number of citations for an author is 2. Of the 263 authors, 8 meet the thresholds. Rosman, Romzie bin ranks first with a total link strength of 23, 4 citations, and 3 publications. In second place is Haron, Razali bin with a total link strength of 20, 15 citations, and 11 publications, followed in order by Shaharuddin, Siti Saffa' (16, 4, 3), Hassan, Rusni bt (15, 5, 11), Mohd Zain, Nor Razinah (11, 2, 4), Morea, Donato (1, 93, 3), Billah, Mohd Ma Sum (0, 2, 3), Rabbani, Mustafa Raza (0, 171, 3).

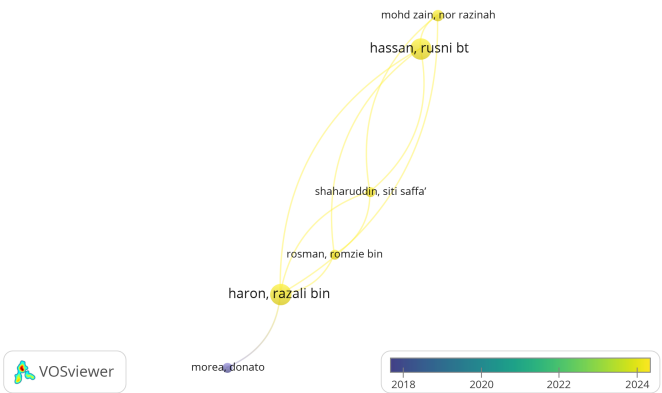

Figure 6. The Overlay visualization of Author Bibliographic Pairs.

Figure 7 represents the overlay visualisation of author bibliographic pairs, which depicts collaborative and chronological relationships among authors. As it may be observed, Haron, Razali Bin, Hassan, Rusni Bt, Mohd Zain, Nor Razinah, Shaharuddin, Siti Saffa, and Rosman, Romzie Bin represent a solid research network, as the lines of intense connection and yellow color indicate recent publications till 2024. In the meantime, Morea, Donato seems to be distinct of the main network with fewer networks, which implies a more targeted contribution but not close to the core group of other writers. This trend affirms that there is a prevailing collaboration group contributing in the field on a regular basis, and Haron, Razali Bin is the hub that enhances the integration of cross-author research.

4.6. Co-occurrence of keywords from Authors

The following image shows a visualization of the network of co-occurrences of author keywords. At this stage, researchers used a threshold, meaning that there must be at least 4 simultaneous occurrences. Of the 332 keywords, 21 keywords met the threshold. Islamic finance ranked first with 36 occurrences and a total link strength of 81, followed by the keyword Islamic finances with 7 occurrences and a total link strength of 32, then the keyword green economy with 6 occurrences and a total link strength of 31, and so on, namely green finance (31, 8), sustainable finance (28, 12), sustainability (27, 10), green development (25, 4), sustainable development (25, 9), decentralized finance (22, 4), sustainable development goals (21, 5), climate change (20, 8), green sukuk (20, 6), renewable energy (19, 6), environmental sustainability (18, 5), sukuk (18, 7), ESG (14, 6), financial inclusion (13, 4), fintech (10, 5), Islamic banking (10, 10), Islamism (10, 4), Islamic economics (1, 4).

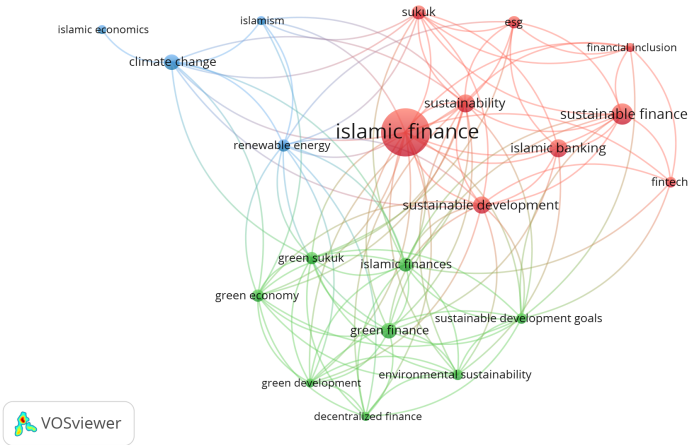

Figure 7. Visualizations of Co-Occurrence of Author Keywords.

Based on the clustering results, there are three main groups formed from 21 keywords. Cluster 1 consists of nine keywords that include Islamic finance and sustainability, including Islamic finance, Islamic banking, sukuk, sustainable finance, sustainability, and problems of financial inclusion, fintech, and ESG. This shows the close relationship between Islamic financial instruments and modern sustainability

practices and financial innovation. Cluster 2 encompasses eight keywords spotting green economy and sustainable development issues, including green finance, green economy, green sukuk, green development, sustainable development goals, and environmental sustainability. This cluster proves that there is a strong association between the green finance concepts, development policies, and financial instruments that favor sustainability. In the meantime, Cluster 3 is comprised of four comparatively more miscellaneous words, i.e., climate change, renewable energy, Islamic economics, and Islamism. This cluster presents a more comprehensive perspective, integrating climate change and renewable energy concerns with Islamic economic studies and ideology. Overall, this cluster division shows that research in the field of Islamic finance and sustainability is developing in three major orientations: the integration of Islamic finance with sustainability practices, a focus on the green economy and development, and the relationship between global issues and the Islamic economic framework.

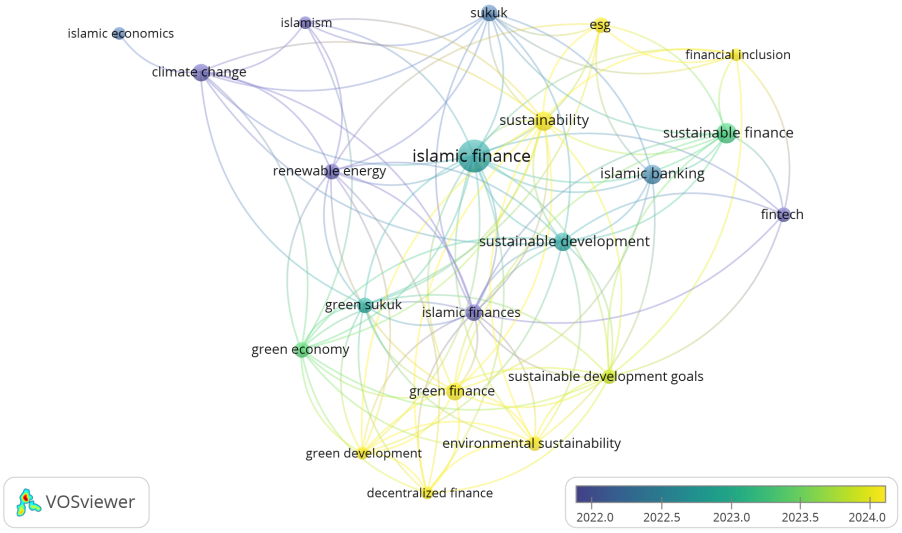

Figure 8. Overlay Versus Co-Occurrence Author Keyword Visualization.

The visualisation of co-occurrence keywords shows that Islamic finance is the main focus of research, with strong links to various other topics. The most prevalent interrelational topics include sustainability, sustainable finance, sustainable development, and the Islamic banking, and become dominant keywords in terms of the Islamic financial integration with the sustainability agenda. In addition, there is also a close connection with issues of green finance, green economy, green sukuk, and renewable energy, which confirms the direction of research towards a green economy and environmentally friendly financial instruments. In terms of time, lighter colors indicate that topics such as ESG, fintech, environmental sustainability, and decentralized finance are relatively newer, while themes such as Islamic economics and climate change tend to be older. This map illustrates the development of studies that are increasingly moving towards synergy between Islamic finance, digital transformation, and global sustainability.

The prevalence of keywords in Islamic finance, sustainability, and the green economy does not only indicate convergence at the academic level but also larger structural and policy-based trends that are influencing the research agenda. The close association between the instruments of Islamic finance and the ideas of sustainability indicates that there is a growing tendency among scholars to view Islamic finance as a policy instrument for the climate and development issues. The trend is more evident in nations like Malaysia and Indonesia, where proactive government policies, regulatory support of Islamic finance, and national sustainability roadmaps have been used to catalyze academic outputs and institutional cooperation. The introduction of the recent themes, including ESG, fintech, and decentralized finances, are also the milestones of the transition towards making the digital innovation and global sustainability standards part of the Islamic finance discourse. All in all, this keyword combination shows that the literature is taking a step out of normative discussions and into applied, policy-oriented, and innovation-driven research directions of the Islamic economics and climate finance nexus.

5. Conclusion

This paper has shown that Islamic economics combined with climate finance has become a fast-developing and strategically important area in the world sustainability discourse. The results demonstrate a definite increase in scholarly interest since 2020, which could be explained by the increasing understanding of Islamic finance as a regulatory and functional framework that has the potential to facilitate climate change mitigation, sustainable development, and just transition. The findings reveal that the research in this field ceases to be marginal, but more and more it is on the border between ethical finance and environmental policy, as well as global development agendas, especially the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The theoretical viewpoint is that the bibliometric evidence points out the role of Islamic finance in bringing a unique moral-economic paradigm to climate finance, and this role is represented by maqāṣid al-sharīʿah, risk-sharing, and social justice. The prevalence of such keywords as "sustainability," "green finance," "green sukuk," and "fintech" points to the conceptual change in traditional Islamic banking research into a wider context of sustainability-oriented frameworks. This validates the fact that, instead of Islamic economics modifying towards climate finance, it is transforming its normative ground by instilling ethical responsibility and intergenerational equity in financial decision-making.

In practice, the findings would be valuable evidence-based information for decision-makers and practice. Due to its country and institutional networks of collaboration, it is possible to note that Malaysia and Indonesia are key centers in this field of research, a tendency that can be attributed to proactive government policies and regulatory frameworks on green sukuk and national strategies that foster Islamic social finance in sustainable development. The clusters identified also show that cross-country cooperation is already taking place in patterns of regional structure, especially

between the Southeast, Middle East, and select countries in Europe. These results imply that further policy endeavors must enhance South-South and cross-regional collaboration by tapping into the existing research clusters instead of using the abstract appeals to collaborate.

Regardless of these contributions, this research study has its limitations. It has only used the Scopus database and is limited to bibliometric methods, which are useful in capturing structural forms of knowledge production but not the qualitative content of theoretical arguments or policy implications. Furthermore, even though the latest publication data until 2025 are provided, the year is not closed yet, and therefore, new tendencies are to be viewed with some reservations.

Further studies in the future must thus undertake a more focused agenda based on bibliometric results. This encompasses comparative bibliometric reviews across databases, more comprehensive thematic mapping of the emergent space of fintech-facilitated Islamic social finance, and longitudinal research that can determine how policy interventions influence research streams. The combination of bibliometrics and qualitative content analysis would also add more information on how Islamic finance can put climate resilience on the ground. Finally, with climate risks escalating and ethical financial systems gaining increasing pressures, the long-standing ISIL approach of combining Islamic economics and climate finance can not only provide a technical remedy but also a moral compass—making Islamic finance an important pillar of the entire just and sustainable world shift.

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