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The Dynamics and Evolution of Public Policy Research in Indonesia: A Bibliometric Analysis of Publication Trends, Research Themes, and Scientific Collaboration

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ABSTRACT

Public policy research plays an essential role in understanding government decision-making, policy implementation, institutional performance, and societal development in Indonesia. Over the years, scholarly interest in public policy has expanded alongside political, economic, social, and technological transformations. This study aims to examine the dynamics and evolution of public policy research in Indonesia through a bibliometric analysis focusing on publication trends, research themes, and scientific collaboration. Bibliographic data are collected from the Crossref database, covering a selected observation period, and analyzed using bibliometric techniques. VOSviewer is employed to visualize keyword co-occurrence networks, thematic relationships, and collaboration patterns among researchers, institutions, and countries. The analysis focuses on annual publication growth, influential authors, leading journals, institutional contributions, geographical distribution, citation patterns, and the development of research themes. Particular attention is given to identifying dominant topics and emerging issues, including public governance, policy implementation, public service innovation, decentralization, digital government, institutional capacity, and sustainable development. Furthermore, scientific collaboration analysis provides insights into the structure and intensity of research partnerships within Indonesian public policy scholarship. By integrating publication performance analysis and science mapping, this study seeks to reveal the intellectual structure and changing research priorities in the field. The findings are expected to provide a comprehensive overview of the development of public policy research in Indonesia, identify underexplored research areas, and highlight opportunities for strengthening interdisciplinary and international collaboration. Ultimately, this study contributes to the advancement of public policy scholarship by offering a bibliometric foundation for developing future research agendas and supporting evidence-based policymaking in Indonesia.

Keywords: Public Policy; Indonesia; Bibliometric Analysis; Research Trends; Scientific Collaboration.

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A. INTRODUCTION

Public policy is a fundamental instrument through which governments respond to societal problems, allocate public resources, and pursue collective development goals. It encompasses a complex process involving problem identification, agenda setting, policy formulation, decision-making, implementation, and evaluation. The study of public policy therefore contributes to understanding how governments exercise authority, manage competing interests, and address changing societal demands. In contemporary governance, policy processes are increasingly influenced by institutional transformation, technological development, economic uncertainty, environmental challenges, and public expectations. These dynamics have encouraged scholars to examine public policy from diverse theoretical and methodological perspectives. As a multidisciplinary field, public policy research draws upon political science, public administration, economics, sociology, law, and development studies. Its intellectual development can be examined not only through individual theoretical contributions but also through patterns of scholarly publications and research collaboration. Consequently, mapping the evolution of public policy scholarship is important for identifying established knowledge, emerging debates, and future research directions (Cairney, 2020; Peters, 2015).

Globally, public policy research has developed alongside significant transformations in government institutions, governance arrangements, and public management practices. Traditional approaches that emphasize governmental authority and hierarchical decision-making have increasingly been complemented by perspectives highlighting networks, collaboration, participation, and multi-actor governance. These developments have expanded scholarly discussions concerning policy effectiveness, institutional capacity, accountability, policy innovation, and evidence-based decision-making. The increasing complexity of public problems has also encouraged researchers to investigate policy responses that cross administrative, sectoral, and national boundaries. Furthermore, digital transformation has introduced new research concerns related to data-driven policymaking, digital government, algorithmic decision-making, and public-sector innovation. Global crises, including economic disruptions, public health emergencies, and climate change, have further demonstrated the importance of adaptive and responsive policy systems. These developments have generated a broad and evolving body of academic literature that requires systematic examination. Bibliometric analysis offers an

appropriate approach for identifying publication patterns, intellectual structures, thematic relationships, and collaboration networks within a growing research field (Donthu et al., 2021; Zupic & Čater, 2015).

In Indonesia, public policy research has developed in response to substantial political, administrative, economic, and social transformations. The democratic transition following the Reformasi era, decentralization, regional autonomy, and bureaucratic reform have created important contexts for examining how public policies are formulated and implemented. These changes have also expanded research interests in public service delivery, local governance, institutional accountability, poverty reduction, environmental management, and social protection. Indonesia's geographical diversity and differences in regional administrative capacity provide opportunities to investigate variations in policy processes and outcomes across local governments. Moreover, the expansion of digital government initiatives has encouraged scholarly attention to public-sector digitalization, administrative innovation, and technology-based public services. At the local level, public policy research is particularly relevant for understanding how national policy frameworks are translated into regional programs and administrative practices. The interaction between national priorities and local implementation experiences makes Indonesia an important setting for examining the dynamics of public policy scholarship. Accordingly, a systematic mapping of Indonesian public policy publications can provide insights into the research priorities, thematic orientations, and collaborative structures shaping the field (Aswin et al., 2022; Rahman, 2023).

Despite the growing importance of public policy scholarship, the development of research in this field remains challenging to understand when publications are examined individually or through conventional narrative reviews. The increasing number of academic articles makes it difficult to identify comprehensive patterns of publication growth, influential research contributions, and changes in thematic priorities. In addition, public policy is a broad field that encompasses interconnected subjects, including governance, policy implementation, institutional reform, public services, decentralization, and sustainable development. Without systematic mapping, relationships among these themes may remain fragmented across different journals, institutions, and research communities. Another important issue concerns scientific collaboration, particularly the extent to which researchers, institutions, and countries establish partnerships in

producing knowledge about Indonesian public policy. Understanding these relationships is necessary to assess the structure of scholarly networks and the potential for interdisciplinary and international research cooperation. Therefore, a systematic approach is needed to examine not only the volume of publications but also their thematic connections and patterns of collaboration. Bibliometric analysis can address these challenges by transforming bibliographic records into measurable indicators and visual representations of research development (Donthu et al., 2021; van Eck & Waltman, 2010).

Previous studies have demonstrated the usefulness of bibliometric analysis for examining the development of public policy and public administration research. Aswin et al. (2022), for example, analyzed Indonesian public policy publications from 2011 to 2021 and examined publication trends, contributing countries, journals, institutions, authors, highly cited articles, and keyword patterns. Their study provides an important empirical foundation for understanding the characteristics of international scholarly publications focusing on public policy in Indonesia. Rahman (2023) examined research on policy innovation in Indonesia through bibliometric analysis and content analysis, identifying thematic interests related to digital economic innovation, natural resource management, health, transportation, employment, and local development. At the broader public administration level, Santoso and Sajida (2026) investigated thematic developments and international collaboration in Indonesian public administration research. These studies indicate that bibliometric approaches can reveal the structure and evolution of scholarly contributions within specific policy and administrative domains. Methodologically, Zupic and Čater (2015) explain that bibliometric techniques, including co-citation, bibliographic coupling, co-authorship, and co-word analysis, can be used to map research specialties and intellectual relationships. Similarly, van Eck and Waltman (2010) demonstrate how VOSviewer facilitates the construction and visualization of bibliometric networks, making complex relationships among publications and research terms more interpretable.

Although previous studies have contributed to understanding public policy and public administration research in Indonesia, several opportunities remain for further investigation. Existing research has often focused on particular periods, selected policy subfields, or specific dimensions of scholarly production. For instance, the study by Aswin et al. (2022) concentrated on public policy publications from 2011 to 2021, while Rahman (2023) specifically examined

policy innovation research. These contributions are valuable, but they do not necessarily provide an integrated examination of the broader dynamics and evolution of Indonesian public policy scholarship across publication trends, thematic development, and scientific collaboration. A more comprehensive mapping is therefore needed to examine how research interests have developed, how major themes are interconnected, and how scholarly collaboration has been structured over time. The present study addresses this opportunity by integrating performance analysis and science mapping to examine the development of public policy research in Indonesia. Its contribution lies in connecting publication productivity, thematic relationships, and collaboration patterns within a unified bibliometric framework, rather than examining these dimensions separately. This approach is expected to provide an updated analytical perspective on the intellectual structure and changing research priorities of Indonesian public policy scholarship.

Based on these considerations, this study aims to analyze the dynamics and evolution of public policy research in Indonesia through a bibliometric approach. Specifically, it examines the development of scientific publications over time to identify patterns of growth and changes in scholarly productivity. It also identifies influential authors, journals, institutions, and geographical contributions within the selected publication dataset. Another objective is to map the dominant research themes and examine the relationships among keywords to identify the intellectual structure of the field. Furthermore, the study investigates the temporal development of research topics to distinguish established themes from emerging areas of scholarly interest. Scientific collaboration is also examined by analyzing co-authorship relationships among researchers, institutions, and countries. Through these objectives, the study seeks to provide a systematic understanding of how Indonesian public policy scholarship has developed and how its research agenda has changed. The analysis is expected to offer an empirical basis for identifying research opportunities and strengthening future scholarly contributions to public policy studies.

This study is expected to make theoretical, methodological, and practical contributions to the development of public policy scholarship in Indonesia. Theoretically, it provides an overview of the intellectual structure of the field by identifying dominant themes, thematic relationships, and emerging research directions. Methodologically, it demonstrates the application of bibliometric techniques to examine publication performance, keyword co-occurrence, and scientific collaboration within a national research context. The findings may assist researchers and

academics in identifying established topics as well as underexplored issues that require further investigation. They may also help universities and research institutions recognize opportunities to strengthen interdisciplinary partnerships and international research networks. From a policy perspective, a clearer understanding of the research landscape can support the development of more relevant research agendas addressing Indonesia's governance and public policy challenges. By integrating publication trends, thematic mapping, and collaboration analysis, this study seeks to provide a comprehensive picture of the development of Indonesian public policy research. Ultimately, the study is intended to contribute to the advancement of evidence-informed scholarship and the strengthening of research capacity in the field of public policy.

B. RESEARCH METHODS

This study employed a bibliometric analysis approach to examine the dynamics and evolution of public policy research in Indonesia, focusing on publication trends, research themes, and scientific collaboration. Bibliometric analysis was selected because it provides a systematic quantitative approach to evaluating scientific publications and identifying patterns in the development of a particular research field. The bibliographic data were collected from the Crossref database, which provides scholarly metadata, including publication titles, authors, publication years, journal names, digital object identifiers (DOIs), and institutional affiliations when available. The search strategy used relevant keywords, including public policy, public policy research, policy studies, and Indonesia, to identify publications associated with the research topic. The observation period was determined based on the study's research objectives and the availability of relevant bibliographic records. The collected records were subsequently screened to ensure their relevance to public policy research in the Indonesian context. Duplicate records and publications that did not meet the established inclusion criteria were excluded from the dataset. This procedure was intended to establish a consistent bibliographic dataset for subsequent analysis.

The bibliographic data were processed and analyzed using bibliometric techniques supported by VOSviewer and Bibliometrix in RStudio. The analysis involved two main approaches: performance analysis and science mapping. Performance analysis was conducted to

examine annual publication growth, the productivity of authors and journals, institutional contributions, geographical distribution, and citation patterns based on the available metadata. Meanwhile, science mapping was used to identify the intellectual and thematic structure of public policy research through keyword co-occurrence analysis and scientific collaboration mapping. VOSviewer was utilized to construct and visualize bibliometric networks, including network visualization, overlay visualization, and density visualization. Network visualization was used to identify relationships among research keywords and the structure of co-authorship networks, while overlay visualization illustrated the temporal development of research themes based on publication years. Density visualization provided an overview of the concentration and prominence of particular research topics within the dataset. These analytical procedures enabled the study to examine the relationships between research themes and the development of scholarly collaboration.

The analysis was conducted through several systematic stages, beginning with data collection, metadata screening, data cleaning, bibliographic processing, and bibliometric visualization. The final dataset was analyzed to identify dominant research themes, emerging topics, publication development patterns, and collaboration structures among researchers, institutions, and countries. The interpretation of the findings focused on understanding how public policy research in Indonesia has evolved and identifying areas that have received substantial scholarly attention as well as topics that remain relatively underexplored. Particular attention was given to the relationship between established research themes, such as public governance, policy implementation, decentralization, and public service delivery, and emerging themes associated with digital governance, institutional capacity, and sustainable development. The resulting bibliometric maps and performance indicators were interpreted in relation to the study's research objectives. However, the analysis was limited by the completeness and accuracy of the metadata indexed in Crossref, particularly information concerning author affiliations, abstracts, and keywords. Therefore, the findings were interpreted based on the available bibliographic records, without assuming that missing metadata represented an absence of research activity.

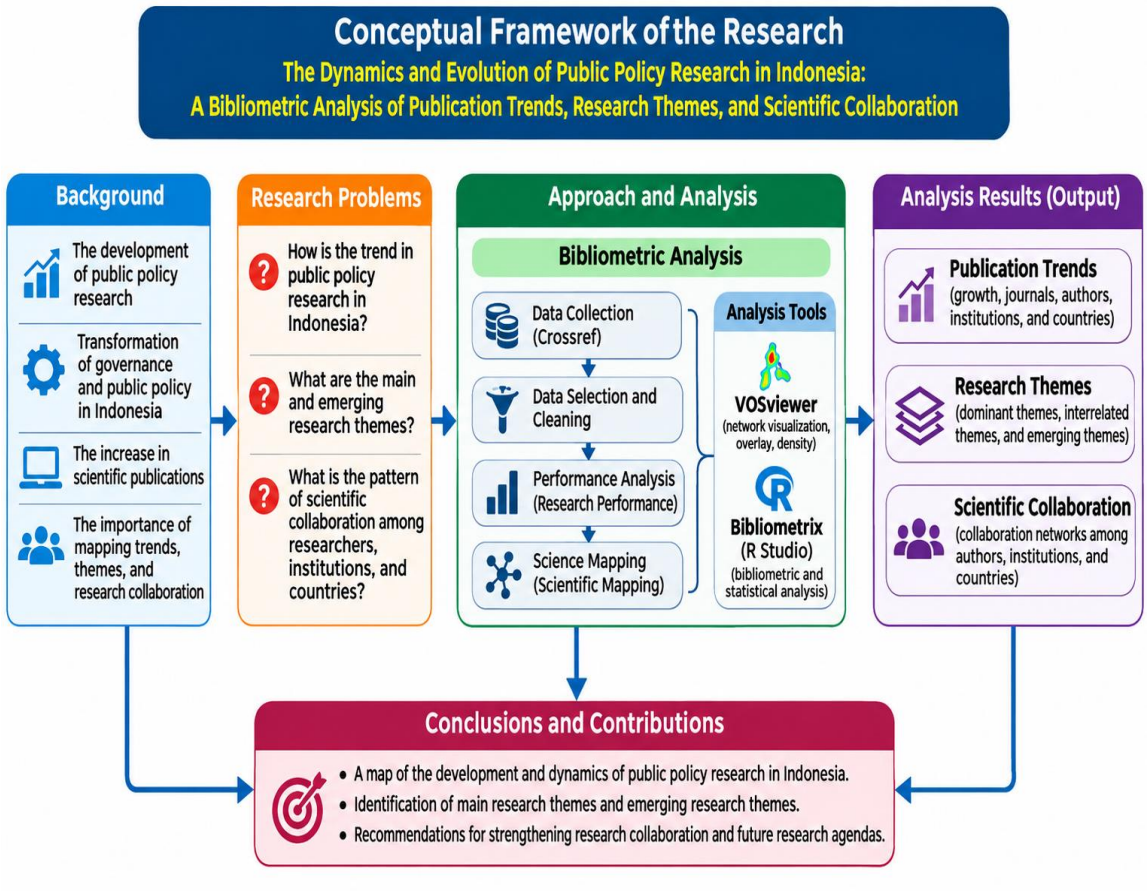


Figure 1 Research Framework of the Dynamics and Evolution of Public Policy Research in Indonesia: A Bibliometric Analysis of Publication Trends, Research Themes, and Scientific Collaboration.

The figure illustrates the conceptual framework of this study, which begins with the identification of the development of public policy research in Indonesia and the need to systematically examine publication trends, research themes, and scientific collaboration. The research process proceeds through bibliometric data collection from the Crossref database, followed by data selection, screening, and cleaning to ensure the relevance and quality of the bibliographic records. The selected data are then analyzed using performance analysis and science mapping techniques, supported by VOSviewer and Bibliometrix in RStudio. These analytical procedures focus on examining publication growth, influential journals and authors, dominant and emerging research themes, keyword relationships, and collaboration networks among researchers, institutions, and countries. The resulting analysis produces three main outputs: publication trends,

thematic development, and scientific collaboration patterns. Ultimately, these outputs provide a comprehensive overview of the evolution of public policy research in Indonesia and serve as a basis for identifying research gaps, developing future research agendas, and strengthening academic collaboration.

C.RESEARCH RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

- Research Results

The bibliometric analysis of the study entitled "The Dynamics and Evolution of Public Policy Research in Indonesia: A Bibliometric Analysis of Publication Trends, Research Themes, and Scientific Collaboration" aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the development of scientific publications concerning public policy research in Indonesia. The analysis uses bibliographic records retrieved from the Crossref database, covering the selected observation period of 2016–2026. The collected publications are examined to identify research productivity, influential authors, publication sources, institutional contributions, geographical distribution, citation patterns, thematic developments, and scientific collaboration. Through bibliometric techniques, this study explores the relationships among research topics and identifies the intellectual structure underlying public policy scholarship in Indonesia. VOSviewer is employed to visualize keyword co-occurrence, thematic relationships, and research collaboration through network, overlay, and density visualizations. Bibliometrix in RStudio is also utilized to support the analysis of publication performance and bibliographic characteristics. These analytical procedures provide a systematic basis for understanding the development and changing orientation of public policy research in Indonesia. The results are expected to reveal dominant research areas, emerging topics, and opportunities for future scholarly investigations in public policy and governance.

The keyword co-occurrence network visualization generated using VOSviewer provides insights into the conceptual structure of public policy research in Indonesia. This visualization identifies groups of interconnected keywords representing major research themes and their relationships within the scientific literature. Keywords such as "public policy," "public

administration," "public governance," "policy implementation," "government," and "public service" are important terms to examine when identifying the main thematic structure of the field. Other related concepts, including "decentralization," "regional autonomy," "bureaucratic reform," "institutional capacity," "accountability," and "public participation," may illustrate the relationship between policy processes and institutional governance. Furthermore, emerging topics such as "digital governance," "digital transformation," "policy innovation," and "sustainable development" may indicate the expansion of scholarly attention toward contemporary public policy challenges. The size of each node represents the relative frequency of keyword occurrences, while the connecting lines indicate the relationships and co-occurrence links between keywords. Different colors represent research clusters that group closely related concepts within the bibliographic network. Therefore, this network analysis provides an important basis for identifying dominant research themes and understanding the conceptual relationships shaping public policy scholarship in Indonesia.

The overlay visualization illustrates the temporal evolution of public policy research themes in Indonesia by presenting the average publication year associated with individual keywords. This visualization makes it possible to distinguish established research topics from relatively recent areas of scholarly interest within the selected observation period. Earlier research themes may include "public administration," "public policy," "decentralization," "regional autonomy," and "policy implementation," reflecting foundational discussions concerning government institutions and policy processes. Meanwhile, more recent keywords may include "digital transformation," "digital governance," "policy innovation," "public service innovation," and "sustainable development," depending on the actual distribution of terms in the dataset. The emergence of these topics may reflect changing scholarly perspectives on how public institutions respond to technological, administrative, economic, and social transformations. The relationships between established and emerging keywords can also provide insights into the continuity and transformation of research priorities over time. Furthermore, the temporal distribution of keywords may reveal increasing academic attention to digital government, institutional adaptability, collaborative governance, and evidence-based policymaking. Consequently, the overlay visualization helps explain how public policy research in Indonesia has evolved and identifies thematic areas that may become important directions for future research.

The density visualization provides an overview of the concentration and intensity of research topics within the bibliographic dataset. In this visualization, areas highlighted in bright yellow indicate higher keyword density, while green and blue areas represent comparatively lower concentrations of keyword occurrences and relationships. Core concepts such as “public policy,” “public administration,” “governance,” “policy implementation,” and “public service” can be examined to determine their relative prominence within the research landscape. Other topics, including “decentralization,” “regional development,” “bureaucratic reform,” “public accountability,” and “institutional capacity,” may represent supporting themes connecting policy formulation, implementation, and government performance. Research topics related to digital transformation, policy innovation, citizen participation, and sustainable development may also provide insights into emerging areas of scholarly interest. The distribution of these keywords helps identify areas where academic attention is concentrated and topics that may remain less extensively connected to the broader research network. By examining the density and relationships among keywords, researchers can identify thematic concentrations and potential research gaps within Indonesian public policy scholarship. Overall, density analysis provides an additional perspective for understanding the intellectual concentration and distribution of research themes in the selected publication dataset.

The scientific collaboration analysis further examines the relationships among researchers, institutions, and countries contributing to publications on public policy research in Indonesia. The co-authorship network generated through VOSviewer can reveal the extent of collaboration among scholars and identify groups of researchers who frequently work together. Institutional collaboration mapping provides additional insights into research partnerships among universities, government research institutions, and other academic organizations. Meanwhile, country-level collaboration analysis illustrates the extent to which Indonesian public policy researchers engage in international scientific partnerships. Strong connections among authors, institutions, or countries indicate established research collaborations, whereas limited connections may suggest opportunities to strengthen academic cooperation. This analysis is particularly relevant because public policy research involves multidisciplinary issues that benefit from perspectives across public administration, political science, economics, law, sociology, and development studies. By examining collaboration patterns alongside publication trends and thematic networks, this study

can identify research communities, institutional relationships, and opportunities for future academic partnerships. Ultimately, the bibliometric findings are expected to provide a foundation for understanding the dynamics of public policy scholarship in Indonesia and identifying future research opportunities in governance, policy innovation, institutional development, and public service improvement.

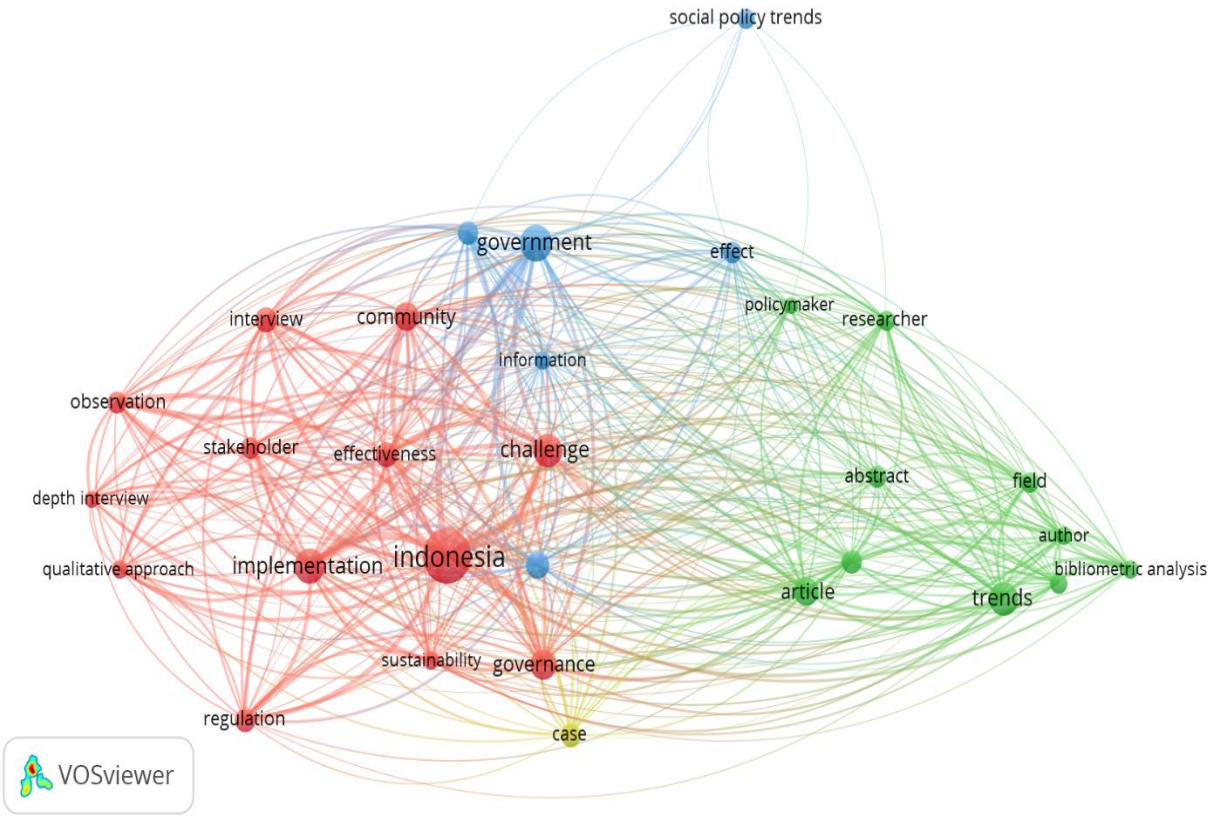


Figure 2 Network Visualization of Keyword Co-occurrence in Public Policy Research in Indonesia.

The network visualization generated using VOSviewer illustrates the relationships among keywords in publications concerning public policy research in Indonesia. The map reveals three main keyword clusters, represented by red, green, and blue nodes, alongside a smaller yellow cluster. The red cluster is strongly associated with substantive public policy issues and

implementation processes, as indicated by keywords such as indonesia, implementation, governance, community, stakeholder, regulation, sustainability, effectiveness, and challenge. This cluster reflects research interests concerning policy implementation, governance practices, community involvement, regulatory frameworks, and policy effectiveness in the Indonesian context. The green cluster is more closely associated with bibliometric and publication-oriented concepts, including bibliometric analysis, trends, article, author, researcher, field, and abstract. These keywords indicate the presence of studies examining publication patterns and the development of research within the field. Meanwhile, the blue cluster includes terms such as government, information, effect, and policymaker, highlighting the relationship between government institutions, information, and policy-related decision-making. The yellow cluster, represented by the keyword case, indicates a connection with case-based research approaches.

The network structure further demonstrates that the keyword indonesia occupies a relatively prominent position and is connected to several important concepts, particularly implementation, governance, community, and challenge. The numerous connecting lines among the clusters indicate that these research themes are interconnected rather than developing independently. The relationship between the red and blue clusters suggests that studies of public policy implementation and governance are closely linked to government institutions, information, and policymakers. Similarly, the connections between the red and green clusters demonstrate the relationship between substantive policy research and the broader development of scholarly publications. The presence of keywords such as interview, observation, depth interview, and qualitative approach also indicates the use of qualitative research approaches in the mapped literature. Overall, this visualization reveals that public policy research in Indonesia encompasses interconnected discussions of policy implementation, governance, community participation, institutional processes, and bibliometric development. These relationships provide an overview of the intellectual structure of the field and help identify the main thematic areas shaping public policy scholarship in Indonesia.

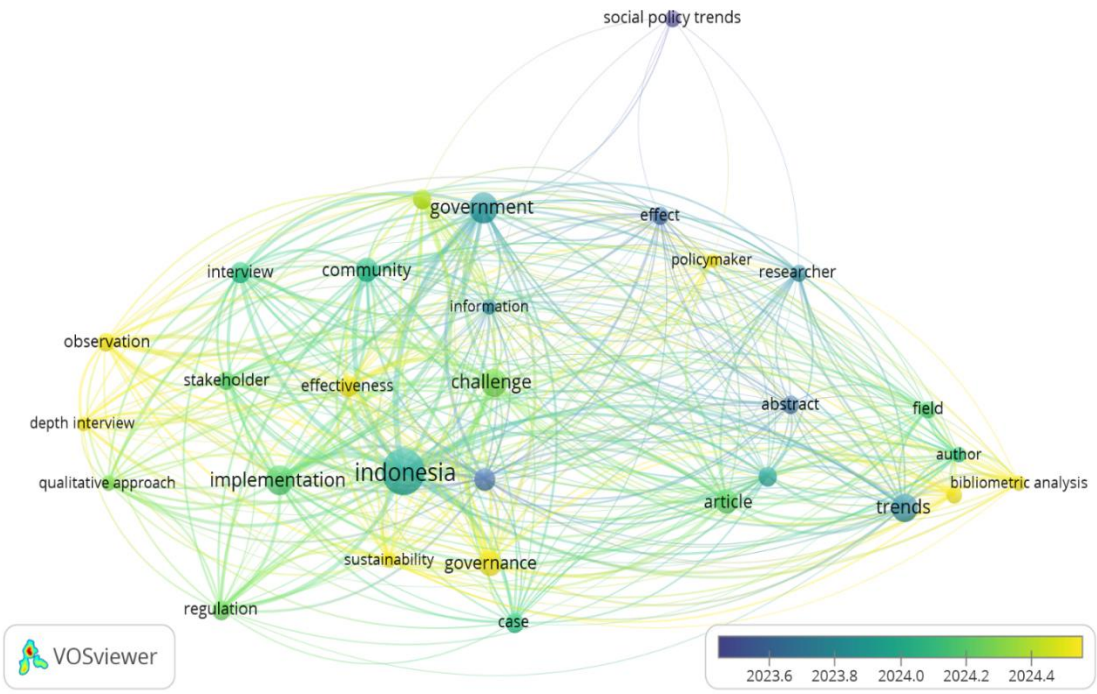


Figure 3 Overlay Visualization of the Temporal Evolution of Research Themes in Public Policy Research in Indonesia.

The overlay visualization generated using VOSviewer illustrates the temporal development of research themes in Indonesian public policy scholarship based on the average publication year of the keywords. The color spectrum ranges from blue and purple, representing relatively earlier research periods around 2023.6, to green and yellow, indicating more recent research periods approaching 2024.4. Keywords such as government, information, effect, social policy trends, and researcher appear in blue or bluish-green shades, suggesting their association with earlier publication periods within the analyzed dataset. Meanwhile, keywords such as observation, depth interview, qualitative approach, stakeholder, regulation, sustainability, and bibliometric analysis appear in green to yellow shades, indicating relatively more recent scholarly attention. The keyword trends and several methodological terms also show yellowish colors, suggesting their stronger association with the later part of the observation period. This temporal distribution provides an overview of how research interests have developed across different themes in the field.

The visualization also reveals that the keyword indonesia maintains a central position and is connected to various themes, including implementation, governance, community, government, and challenge. This indicates that research concerning public policy in Indonesia remains closely associated with policy implementation, governance processes, institutional roles, and community involvement. The appearance of more recent terms related to research methods, such as observation, depth interview, and qualitative approach, suggests continued scholarly attention to empirical approaches for examining policy processes and implementation at the field level. Furthermore, the presence of bibliometric analysis and trends highlights the development of research examining publication patterns and the evolution of scholarly knowledge itself. The connecting lines indicate relationships among keywords, demonstrating that earlier and more recent research themes remain interconnected rather than developing separately. Overall, the overlay visualization provides evidence of temporal variation in research topics and offers insights into the evolving priorities of public policy scholarship in Indonesia.

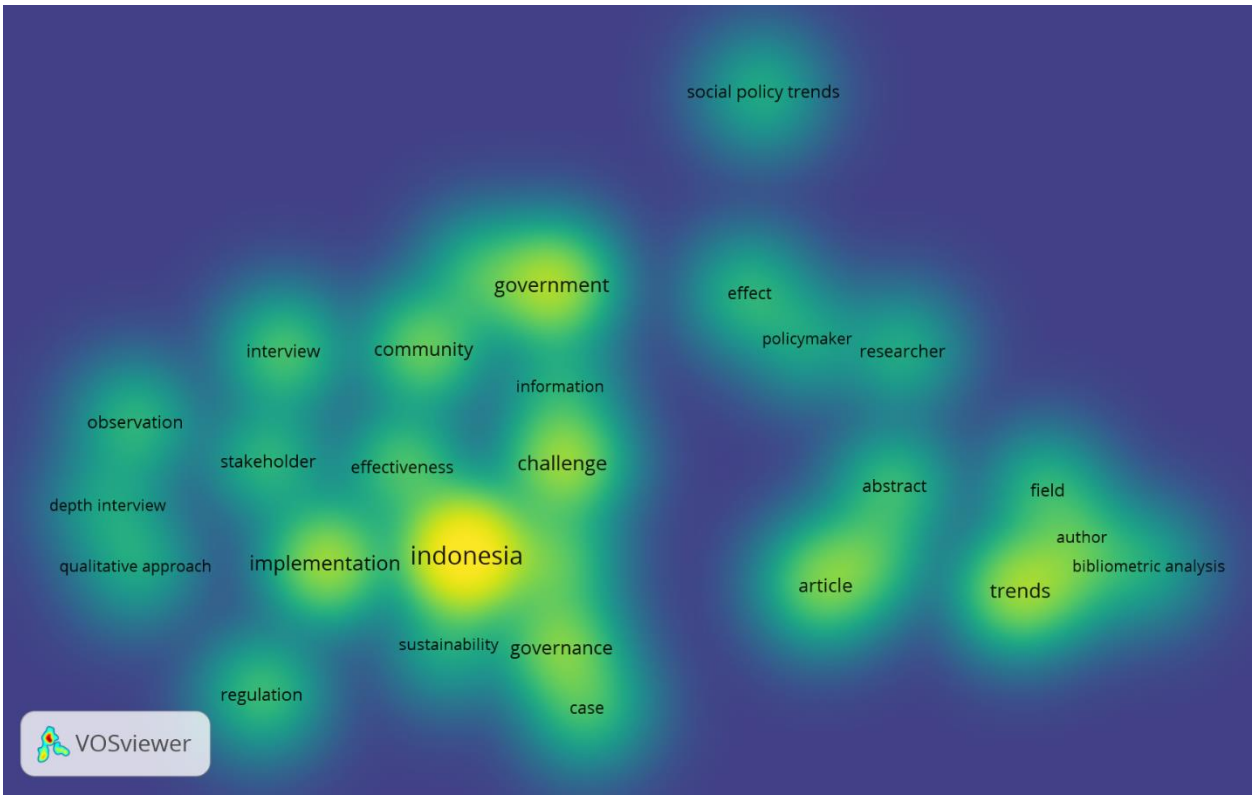


Figure 4 Density Visualization of Research Themes in Public Policy Research in Indonesia.

The density visualization generated using VOSviewer illustrates the concentration and distribution of keywords in publications concerning public policy research in Indonesia. The color intensity represents the density of keyword occurrences and their relationships with other terms, where yellow areas indicate higher concentrations, green areas represent moderate concentrations, and blue areas indicate relatively lower concentrations. The keyword indonesia appears as the most prominent high-density area, indicating its central position within the analyzed research dataset. Other relatively prominent areas are associated with government, implementation, trends, article, governance, and challenge. These keywords demonstrate that public policy research in Indonesia is substantially connected to government institutions, policy implementation, governance processes, and the development of scholarly publications. Meanwhile, keywords such as community, stakeholder, effectiveness, information, and sustainability represent related research topics that contribute to the broader understanding of policy processes and outcomes.

Furthermore, the visualization identifies several thematic areas with comparatively lower keyword density, including observation, depth interview, qualitative approach, regulation, case, social policy trends, and bibliometric analysis. Although these terms appear in less concentrated areas, they indicate methodological approaches and specific research interests within the broader public policy literature. The presence of interview, observation, and qualitative approach suggests the use of qualitative methods to investigate policy implementation and governance practices, while bibliometric analysis and trends reflect scholarly interest in mapping the development of academic publications. The distribution also highlights connections between substantive policy issues, such as governance and implementation, and research-oriented topics concerning publication development. Overall, the density visualization indicates that Indonesian public policy research is concentrated around national policy contexts, government activities, implementation processes, and governance, while also encompassing methodological and thematic areas that provide opportunities for further scholarly investigation.

- Discussion

The bibliometric findings provide an overview of the intellectual structure and thematic orientation of public policy research in Indonesia. Figure 2 (Network Visualization) shows that the keyword indonesia occupies a prominent position and is strongly connected with implementation,

governance, community, government, challenge, and sustainability. This pattern suggests that Indonesian public policy scholarship is substantially concerned with the relationship between policy implementation, government institutions, governance processes, and community involvement. The red cluster particularly reflects substantive policy issues, including implementation, regulation, stakeholder participation, and policy effectiveness, while the green cluster contains publication-oriented terms such as bibliometric analysis, trends, article, author, and researcher. The blue cluster connects government, information, policymakers, and policy effects, indicating another dimension of research concerning institutional and informational aspects of policymaking. These interconnected clusters demonstrate that public policy research is not confined to a single disciplinary concern but encompasses substantive policy processes and the development of scholarly knowledge. This interpretation is consistent with Zupic and Čater (2015), who explain that keyword co-occurrence and other bibliometric mapping techniques can reveal conceptual relationships and the intellectual structure of a research field.

Figure 3 (Overlay Visualization) further illustrates the temporal distribution of research themes based on their average publication years, with the visible color scale ranging approximately from 2023.6 to 2024.4. Keywords such as government, information, effect, and researcher appear in relatively blue or bluish-green shades, whereas terms such as observation, depth interview, qualitative approach, regulation, and bibliometric analysis appear in greener or more yellowish shades. This distribution indicates differences in the average publication periods associated with the identified research terms. The appearance of methodological keywords in relatively recent colors suggests that empirical approaches, including interviews and observation, are visible components of the more recent thematic landscape represented in the dataset. Meanwhile, the presence of bibliometric analysis and trends reflects scholarly attention to examining publication development and research patterns. However, these color differences should be interpreted as temporal associations rather than evidence that one research theme directly caused the emergence of another. As emphasized by Donthu et al. (2021), bibliometric analysis is useful for identifying the evolution of research topics and emerging areas through systematic examination of bibliographic data.

Figure 4 (Density Visualization) provides additional evidence regarding the relative concentration of keywords within the research landscape. The strongest density is visible around

indonesia, followed by relatively prominent areas associated with government, implementation, trends, article, governance, and challenge. This pattern reinforces the interpretation that Indonesian public policy research is centrally concerned with national policy contexts, government activities, policy implementation, and governance challenges. Other keywords, including community, stakeholder, effectiveness, sustainability, and regulation, indicate supporting themes that broaden the discussion toward public participation, policy outcomes, environmental concerns, and regulatory processes. Meanwhile, terms such as observation, depth interview, and qualitative approach represent methodological dimensions within the literature, while bibliometric analysis indicates research interest in mapping scholarly development. The different density levels should not be interpreted as direct measures of research quality or policy importance; rather, they illustrate the relative concentration of keywords and their relationships in the analyzed dataset. Van Eck and Waltman (2010) explain that VOSviewer uses visualization techniques to represent bibliometric networks and reveal patterns of relationships among scientific terms, thereby facilitating the interpretation of complex research structures.

Overall, the three visualizations demonstrate that public policy research in Indonesia encompasses interconnected substantive, institutional, methodological, and publication-oriented themes. The network visualization identifies the relationships among major concepts, the overlay visualization illustrates their temporal distribution, and the density visualization highlights areas of greater keyword concentration. Taken together, these findings suggest that policy implementation and governance constitute important thematic dimensions, while community participation, regulation, sustainability, and institutional processes provide related areas of scholarly investigation. The appearance of bibliometric analysis and trends also indicates the presence of studies that examine the development and structure of academic publications themselves. Nevertheless, the present visualizations primarily describe keyword relationships and thematic patterns; they do not independently establish the strength of scientific collaboration among authors, institutions, or countries. Such conclusions require a separate co-authorship analysis supported by the corresponding collaboration network. Therefore, this study contributes a structured overview of the thematic landscape of Indonesian public policy research and provides a basis for identifying research opportunities, particularly in the areas of policy implementation, governance, community engagement, and the changing methodological orientation of the field.

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