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**A BIBLIOMETRIC ANALYSIS ON TRENDS,
DIRECTIONS AND MAJOR PLAYERS OF
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS STUDIES**

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ABSTRACT

As communications technology, air travel, and a complex international economy continue to make the world smaller, the importance of peaceful and cooperative relationships between nations increases. However, it is unclear to what extent research on international relations (IR) has expanded as a global discipline; narrated by balanced perspectives and provides an impact. This study conducts a bibliometric analysis of 4,986 documents related to IR as recorded in the Scopus database from 1913 to 2022. Specifically, this paper analyzes (a) the trends and developments; (b) influential documents and frequent keywords and (c) major players in terms of productive journals, authors and institutions in IR studies. This paper provides a new panoramic view through tables and science maps on the publication of IR studies. The findings show a gradual interest in the IR field before the Second World War and this accelerated during the mid-twentieth century. Political economy is

gaining more importance and most publications centre on IR theories while discussing prevailing events affecting the world. However, the Western influence of IR is still primarily mainstream, where IR publications are mainly controlled by large Western publishers, influenced by Western authors affiliated with long-established Western institutions. Seemingly, the non-Western contributions to the IR field have yet to establish their own footing in the field despite much discussion about diversifying IR. This remains a challenge for non-Western scholars, journal publishers, and institutions seeking to contribute to the ongoing debate in the study of international relations.

Keywords: Bibliometrix, literature review, international studies, global IR, diversity.

INTRODUCTION

International relations (IR) sometimes called “international studies”, or “international affairs” is an expansive and interdisciplinary field of study that examines the interactions between states, the foreign policy of nation-states, and the mechanisms and institutions (such as international organizations, inter-governmental organizations, international and national non-governmental organizations, and multinational corporations) that comprise the international system. Components of IR include studying the dynamics of international politics or analyzing the basic historical, geographical, economic, ideological, and strategic factors that foster conflict and cooperation among actors in the modern international system (Steinmetz, 2019). IR is extremely reliant on other fields of study. Numerous topics are covered in the study of IR, including globalization, international organizations, international financial relations, international trade relations, human rights, economic development, including regional and global peace and security.

The implementation of IR has seen a significant expansion within the context of the modern world. IR initially focused on diplomacy, then shifted to international law and expanded further covering international organizations. The proliferation of nation-states, the possibility of nuclear war, the interdependence of nations, and the growing aspirations of populations that are increasingly impoverished

are factors that contributed to the growth of international relations. Today's IR research has become an extremely broad and vital topic in the modern world. Scientists from across the world are developing novel concepts, points of view, and theories about international dynamics. A continuous and thorough discourse between theorists and practitioners of international politics has influenced the study of IR.

Prior studies on IR have demonstrated the influence of certain countries on IR scholarship and the imbalance in international scientific production between North and South writers. According to an examination of bibliometric data from top IR journals by Hendrix and Vreede (2019), the United States continues to enjoy a privileged position in the field, though academic interest in Israel and Taiwan has increased in recent years. Apart from a few English-language journals with quite diverse authorships, a study on the geographic diversity of authorship in 17 IR journals from Africa, East Asia, Europe, Latin America, North America, and the United Kingdom found that global IR is fragmented and provincial as all journals frequently publish works by authors located in their own region (Lohaus & Wemheuer-Vogelaar, 2021). In spite of the expansion of non-Western nations, the field of IR has evolved and for a considerable amount of time, has continued to be developed as a “Western know-how” (Asatryan & Kalpakian 2021). Even Central and Eastern Europe have been under-represented in the IR literature (Alejandro, 2022). These studies are premised on the view that journals offer a systems perspective of the disciplines, allowing for the tracking of practices of scientific knowledge production. Nonetheless, these studies mainly focus on the analysis of journals of limited number and origin.

Smith (2000) reviewed the status of the IR field by looking at the situation in the UK and found that the US academia still dominates the discipline. Tickner (2003) offered an overview of IR studies in Latin America by examining the IR theory courses, as well as journal articles from specialized IR journals, and signalled that Latin American perspectives on the subject could offer something different to the Anglo-American viewpoints.

A variety of works have documented some critical understanding of how IR was built within different geographical areas. For instance, Milani (2021) who covered IR discussions in Brazilian publications,

claims that IR is closely associated with foreign policy, and national geopolitical thinking, particularly post-Second World War. Drulak and Drulakova's (2000) review of IR in the Czech Republic, found a somewhat shaky theoretical foundation and generational divide in the discipline. Nonetheless, these studies only focus on limited geographical areas which do not provide a holistic understanding of the IR field. Critical scholars of the "global IR" (a proposal for a more open-minded and diverse approach to international studies) often debate topics like gatekeeping, dominance, and the marginalization of authors from the periphery (Tickner 2013, Turton 2017). This view emphasizes biases in the IR discipline.

Several studies have also concentrated on specific areas in IR. Mila-Maldonado and Jaraiz (2021) conducted a bibliographic review on the idea of social forces acting as political actors in the international sphere from the critical theory of IR's point of view. Munir and Purnomo (2019) revealed that the majority of research on dimensions of paradiplomacy has been conducted in Europe and America, with only a few studies conducted in Asian border countries. Kirkpatrick's (2015) review concluded that IR theory has dealt with visuality, photography, and media in a way that constricts the field of vision and inhibits from visualizing the broader regime of representation. Besides, Horton and Reynolds (2016) asserted that significant concern has been raised that IR scholars are missing a crucial opportunity to provide insights into some areas as literature on the international politics of climate engineering are produced primarily by scholars outside of the IR discipline. These discussions on specific areas in IR certainly animate the claim about the imbalance of IR studies, but an overview of specific areas that are mostly discussed in IR literature could help provide some ideas on the trends and approaches of the discipline.

Other research investigated several IR journals and analysed the articles published. Macuhin (2019) reviewed the 2018 journal articles dealing with IR published in Russian scientific journals. They found that global and local crises form the dominant trend in Russian scientific publications analysing foreign policy; and that these studies frequently overly globalise and covered extremely broad and general theoretical aspects of international relations. Jedrowiak (2018) reviewed articles published in 2017 in British academic journals dealing with IR disclosing popular themes which included

Brexit, elections, and trust in politics, while issues related to China, Middle East countries and terrorism maintained interest every year. The Ukrainian conflict, Middle East issues, migration policy, British policy, and climate change are just some of the topics covered, with slight variations from articles published in 2015 in British academic journals devoted to IR (Jedrowiak 2018). Tow (2015) reviewed IR and foreign policy in the Australian Journal of Political Science which revealed that the evolution of the IR journal that encourages leading-edge contributions to the field can be attributed to the understanding that contemporary political issues are becoming more interconnected and that new IR approaches reflect these current developments. However such studies only focus on specific journals which generate an unbalanced view of the discipline. Examination of the literature in various journals would provide a more valuable and balanced operational aspect of IR issues and debates.

Prior publications regarding IR studies provide researchers with the chance to investigate the topic from various angles. IR research has already been the subject of some literature studies, but bibliometric research on the literature in this field is useful for researchers to gather more thorough, varied, and in-depth data. Such research is crucial for revealing the true nature of this field, assisting researchers in better comprehending the present state and anticipated developments in IR-related themes, besides aiding in the successful focus of their research. The primary objective is to bring these developments to the attention of the IR community. We believe that analyzing the research output in terms of scientific publications would be an effective method for understanding scientific knowledge on IR areas and topics over the years.

Our research contributes to the empirical discussion of the biases in the IR discipline. It extends the bibliometric tradition through conducting an investigation into the IR research arena; meant to supplement earlier bibliometric studies. The overview of IR research is presented using a newly developed Bibliometrix R-package tool. The analysis is based on a sizable, reliable, and high-quality dataset made up of 4,986 documents from the Scopus database that were published between 1913 and 2022.

This article begins by analyzing the trends and development of articles on IR by investigating patterns in the production of IR research.

Secondly, it lays out the core documents that influence IR studies and frequent topics in IR articles in order to determine its direction. Thirdly, it sets out the major players in the IR discipline in terms of the most frequent journals, prolific authors, and productive institutions, and measures its diversity. Lastly, the article explains the reasons and implications of the findings.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This study utilizes the R-tool bibliometrix (Aria & Cuccurullo 2017), an open-source tool for performing comprehensive science mapping analysis, to describe distribution patterns of documents on IR studies. ‘Bibliometrix’ is a tool written in the R language that performs a comprehensive bibliometric analysis of the published literature available at <https://www.bibliometrix.org>. As the volume of published research grows at an increasing rate, the effort required to accumulate knowledge becomes more complex. As a result, bibliometric analysis is becoming an essential component of conducting a systematic literature review. The primary objective of this study is to conduct a bibliometric analysis of published research on international relations, international affairs, or international studies. However, a thorough analysis of the published research is beyond the scope of this article.

The data of this study is collected from the Scopus database which contains more than 1.8 billion cited references dating back to 1970. Scopus is one of the largest databases of abstracts and citations for peer-reviewed literature, providing global content of more than 6,000 titles from North America, over 750 titles from the Middle East and Africa, over 11,000 titles from Western Europe, over 1,400 titles from East Europe including Russia, over 700 titles from Latin America, over 2,000 titles from Asia Pacific as well as over 300 titles from Australia and New Zealand (Elsevier, n.d). With such a vast database, it is possible to get a full picture of global research output.

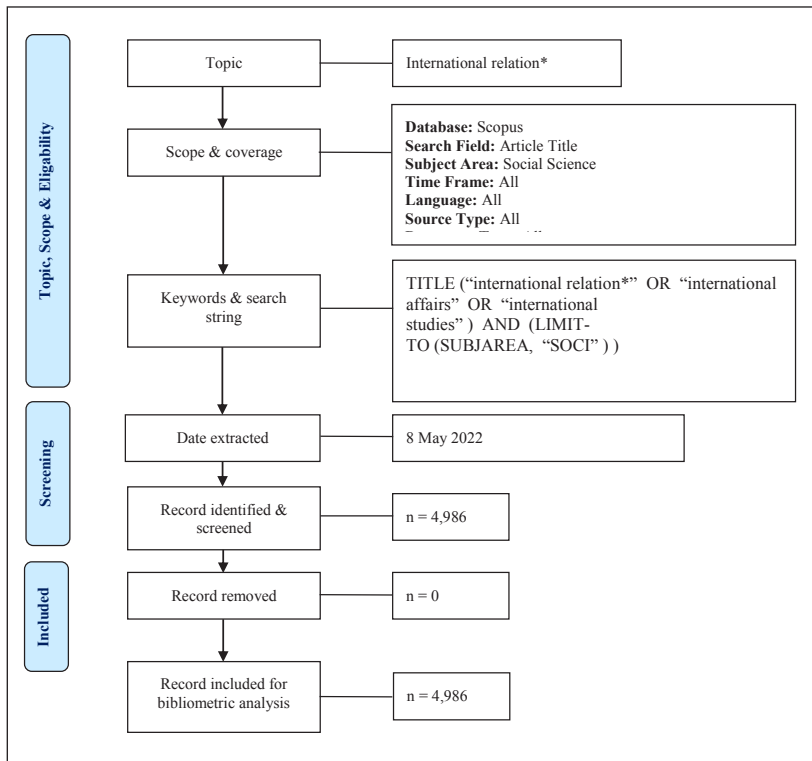
Based on the study objectives, we used the term “international relation*” or “international affairs” or “international studies” when querying the Scopus database for information based on title search only. We only considered documents within the social science subject area to avoid retrieving documents unrelated to the area. The specific

search code used on Scopus database on 8th May 2022 returned 4,986 document results. Figure 1 shows the process for performing bibliometric analysis using “bibliometrix” in this research.

The results were saved and exported to R-tool for further analysis. Several results from the R-tool were then exported to a new Excel file. From this newly created file, further information like percentage, charts, figures and analysis was developed. After the results were identified, analyzed and synthesized, we drew up the final report, which presented the findings and analysis of the materials. This paper hopes to contribute meaningful insights into IR discussions at the global level. Researchers can utilize the findings as a springboard for future studies and discussions that will further enhance and improve this field.

Figure 1

Flow Diagram of Search Strategy



FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS

Trends and developments of IR research

Main information

The search query extracted from Scopus database revealed the main characteristics as presented in Table 1 summarizing the dataset totalling 4,986 documents from as early as 1913 to 2022. The number of average citations per document was 16.41 and the number of average citations per year per document was 1.184, with 294,272 references. This implies that the study of IR has developed for quite a long period of time, even before World War Two and the documents were widely referred to, indicating their importance.

Table 1

Main Information Regarding Selected Articles

Description	Results
MAIN INFORMATION ABOUT DATA	
Timespan	1913:2022
Sources (Journals, books, etc.)	1829
Documents	4986
Average years from publication	14.3
Average citations per document	16.41
Average citations per year per document	1.184
References	294272
DOCUMENT TYPE	
Article	2937
Book	463
Book chapter	780
Conference paper	61
Editorial	124
Erratum	133
Letter	2
Note	64
Review	420
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	1715
Author's keywords (DE)	4852

(continued)

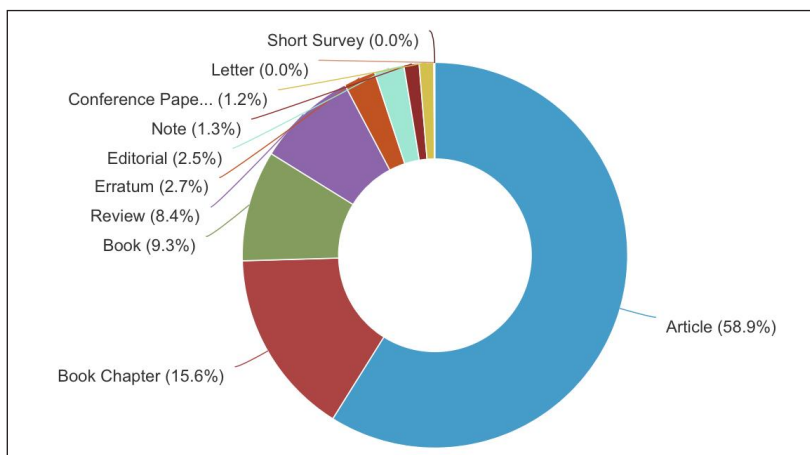
Description	Results
AUTHORS	
Authors	5387
Author appearances	7608
Authors of single-authored documents	2528
Authors of multi-authored documents	2859
AUTHOR COLLABORATION	
Single-authored documents	3575
Documents per author	0.926
Authors per document	1.08
Co-authors per document	1.53
Collaboration index	2.03

Documents by Type

Out of the 4,986 documents, most documents were in the form of articles (n=2,937) followed by book chapters (n=780); books (n=463); reviews (n=420). The rest of the documents were in various forms namely editorial, erratum, note, conference paper, and letter (Figure 2). This shows that almost 30 percent of documents in IR studies are more popularly published in long process publications. Publications in books or book chapters often takes a long time to be reviewed and published and thus the information may no longer be current. This may be due to the nature of the study which is slow to develop.

Figure 2

Documents by Type

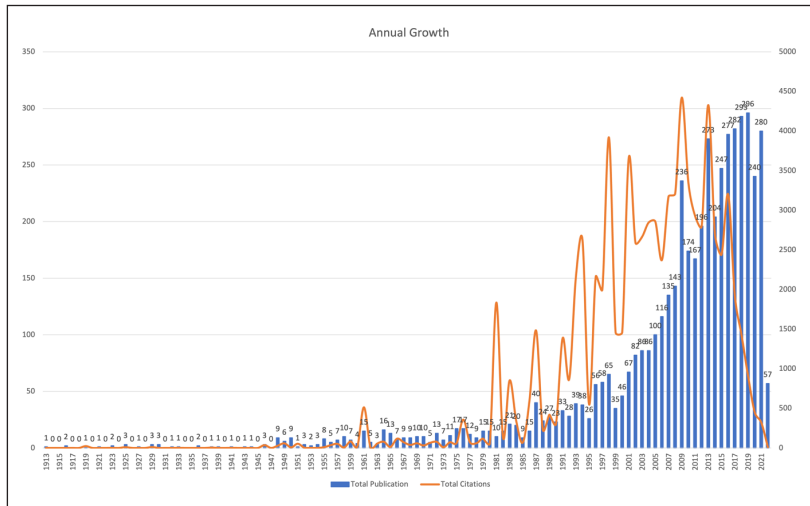


Annual Publication Trends

Figure 3 illustrates the annual publication trends from 1913 to 2022. The first document published on IR studies as recorded by the Scopus database in 1913 was “British Columbia and British International Relations” by E. R. Gosnell published in *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*. Very few publications on IR was noted prior to 1947. Thereafter the trendline shows a slow growth of publications on IR from 1948 to 1987. This implies that studies on international relations gradually captured the interest of numerous academics, researchers, and practitioners. Post-year 2000, the publications on IR studies had gradually increased. In 2009, IR studies obtained a very high number of publications of over 200 documents for the first time. Ten years later in 2019, the documents on IR surged to nearly 300 documents per year signifying the increasing importance and growing interest in the IR field.

Figure 3

Total Publications on IR Studies and Citations Per Year



Core Documents and Frequent Keywords in IR Studies

Key components of the IR research field were determined using keywords and citation analysis. The intellectual structure of this domain was then presented using a variety of bibliometric techniques from both static and dynamic perspectives.

Most Cited Documents

Highly cited scholars represent the crème de la crème of researchers at the global level, evoking the height of national and regional innovation in knowledge. Highly cited publications indicate that the author's research findings have been extensively acknowledged, inherited, and passed along by subsequent generations of researchers. Table 2 shows the most cited articles globally in relation to IR studies. Global cited documents are calculated based on the number of citations received by a particular document from all documents around the world that have been indexed from a similar data source. This indicates the influence of these papers in the IR studies domain.

Based on Scopus Database, the most cited article is an article published in the Millenium Journal of International Studies titled, "Social Forces, States and World Orders: Beyond International Relations Theory" (n=1,680 citations). Here, Cox (1981) created a method for understanding global power relations, the role of social factors, actors in the development of states and world order. Furthermore, he clarified key assumptions from different theories that provide readers with easy understanding to explain the process of IR (Cox, 1981). The second-most-cited document "Territoriality and beyond: Problematizing modernity in international relations" viewed that modernity in international politics is characterised by territoriality, and changes to a few other factors may have an impact on the current global order (Ruggie, 1993). Other most cited documents are by Agnew (1994) and Wendt (1987) who both discussed IR theory.

A more recent document that received high citations is a book called "The political economy of international relations" by Gilpin (2016). Gilpin (2016) illustrated the intimate connections between politics and economics in IR, elaborating on the crucial role played by the innovative use of power in support of an institutional framework that established a global economy. The precision with which Gilpin explained the influence of politics on the world economy made this book the focal point of many courses in international political economics. This book was published in seven languages between 1987 and 2016. Gilpin's book also received the highest total citation per year far ahead of other documents (n=216.68).

Notably, the majority of the documents that were highly cited had been published in the 19th century. The high citations obtained thus

could be due to its content or ideas that are still relevant as well as its longer period of availability. Seemingly, it can also be said that articles on IR do not portray much impact to the scientific community compared to other fields like computing or engineering. This finding shows that the most cited documents are mainly old documents. Aris (2021) found that low strategic dependence on IR scholarship and an interdisciplinarily distinct fragmentation of IR may explain why there are not many citations in IR documents as compared to other fields. Citation behaviour in some fields is affected by both the article and the author's traits, indicating that citation patterns are related to both the universalistic and the particularistic views of science. (Meyer et al, 2018).

Table 2

Most Cited Documents (Global)

Author(s)	Source Title	Document Title	TC	TCY
Cox (1981)	Millennium - Journal of International Studies	Social forces, states and world orders: Beyond international relations theory	1680	40.00
Ruggie (1993)	International Organization	Territoriality and beyond: Problematizing modernity in international relations	1562	52.07
Gilpin (2016)	The Political Economy of International Relations	The political economy of international relations (book)	1518	216.86
Agnew (1994)	Review of International Political Economy	The territorial trap: The geographical assumptions of international relations theory	1389	47.90
Wendt (1987)	International Organization	The agent-structure problem in international relations theory	1087	30.19
Checkel (1998)	World Politics	The constructivist turn in international relations theory	901	36.04

(continued)

Author(s)	Source Title	Document Title	TC	TCY
Hopf (1998)	International Security	The promise of constructivism in international relations theory	745	29.80
Cox (1983)	Millennium - Journal of International Studies	Gramsci, hegemony and international relations : An essay in method	690	17.25
Milliken (1999)	European Journal of International Relations	The study of discourse in international relations: A critique of research and methods	659	27.46
Keohane (1986)	International Organization	Reciprocity in international relations	536	14.49
Finnemore & Sikkink (2001)	Annual Review of Political Science	Taking stock: The constructivist research program in international relations and comparative politics	497	22.59
Osiander (2001)	International Organization	Sovereignty, international relations, and the Westphalian myth	490	22.27
King & Zeng (2001)	International Organization	Explaining rare events in international relations	446	20.27
Singer (1961)	World Politics	The level-of-analysis problem in international relations	424	6.84
Wæver (1998)	International Organization	The sociology of a not so international discipline: American and European developments in international relations	423	16.92
Hafner-Burton et al. (2009)	International Organization	Network analysis for international relations	419	29.93
Guzzini (2000)	European Journal of International Relations	A reconstruction of constructivism in international relations	390	16.96

(continued)

Author(s)	Source Title	Document Title	TC	TCY
Lebow (2008)	A Cultural Theory of International Relations	A cultural theory of international relations (book)	386	25.73
Philpott (2010)	Revolutions in Sovereignty: How Ideas Shaped Modern International Relations	Revolutions in sovereignty: How ideas shaped modern international relations (book)	368	28.31
Inayatullah & Blaney (2004)	International Relations and the Problem of Difference	International relations and the problem of difference (book)	339	16.95

Total citations (TC); Total citations per year (TCY)

Most Frequent Keywords

Authors use keywords to give a clear, representative, and concise description of the research content. Because of this, it is possible to use keywords analysis to find hot topics and themes in a research field (Zhang et al., 2016). We analyzed the frequency of occurrence and relevance of author keywords, and the top ten most frequently occurring keywords as shown in Table 3. Apart from the “international relations” keywords (827) which were dominant, other hot keywords include “international relations theory” (125), “theoretical study” (119) and “foreign policy” (107). Other top 20 frequent keywords used were: China, human, geopolitics, methodology, teaching, realism, humans, article, education, United States, constructivism, political theory, Europe, globalization, IR theory and learning.

“IR theories” become the most popular keywords in IR studies because theories are often used to explain, apply and predict events. Theory serves as a guide to analyze international actors, processes or structures (Jorgensen 2017). “Realism” and “constructivism” theories are seemingly the common theory used in IR studies. Furthermore, “foreign policy” is also a common keyword in IR documents, as it is the core of international relations and explains the concepts and approach(s) between nations. “China” is an intriguingly popular keyword, presumably because it is a rising force that poses a danger to other nations. In addition, China-based experts are now actively participating in IR academic discourse. Apart from China, the keywords “US” and “Europe” frequently used in documents related to IR show that these nations are mostly being researched with regard to IR studies.

Table 3

Most Frequent Keywords

Author Keywords	TP	%
International relations	827	16.59%
International relations theory	125	2.51%
Theoretical study	119	2.39%
Foreign policy	107	2.15%
China	84	1.68%
Human	72	1.44%
Geopolitics	68	1.36%
Methodology	66	1.32%
Teaching	64	1.28%
Realism	60	1.20%
Humans	57	1.14%
Article	55	1.10%
Education	53	1.06%
United States	52	1.04%
Constructivism	48	0.96%
Political theory	46	0.92%
Europe	44	0.88%
Globalization	44	0.88%
IR theory	44	0.88%
Learning	44	0.88%

Trend of Topics

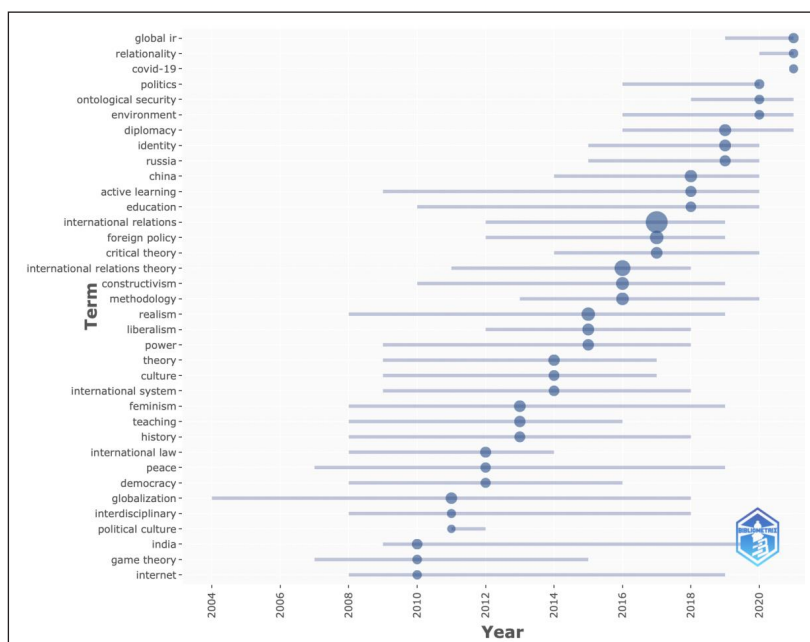
In Figure 4, keywords occurring more than five times per year from year 2010 to 2022 are highlighted. The size of the keywords and the frequency of their occurrence in the data set are positively correlated. From the findings, hot keywords appearing in recent years include ‘diplomacy’, ‘environment’, ‘ontological security’, ‘politics’, ‘Covid-19’, ‘relationality’ and ‘global IR’. Throughout the years, ‘globalization’ seems to be the hot keyword. The advancements in communication and transportation technologies which facilitate

growing global interactions in economy, politics and culture explain the popular use of this keyword in IR documents.

These frequently used keywords in IR studies have mainly coincided with prevailing IR events and issues. The practice of diplomacy in resolving conflicts has become a norm in foreign policy. Alarming environmental issues addressing transboundary pollution, climate change and disruption of ecosystems have also attracted attention in recent scholarly work on IR. The recent Covid-19 outbreak and resultant government intervention measures have also become the subject of investigation in IR studies.

Figure 4

Trend Topics of Author Keywords



Major Players of IR Studies

Most Frequent Journals

Journals are the primary institution for organizing both intellectual debates and social structures (Kristensen, 2012). Through their peer

review practices, journals serve as the primary reputational validator and regulator of new knowledge (Wæver et al., 2010). Numerous periodicals feature articles on IR. The 4,986 documents obtained for this study came from 159 different journals. The h-index of each journal and the quantity of IR-related articles were used as indicators to determine which journals were the most significant and influential in the field of IR research.

Table 4 shows the leading journals that published the most IR-related keywords or over 40 articles in the field. The top five journals are Millennium Journal of International Studies, Review of International Studies, International Studies Perspectives, European Journal of International Relations and International Studies Review. All these top IR journals are managed by large Western international publishers such as SAGE, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Springer Nature, and Taylor and Francis. Nonetheless, the International Studies Journal published under SAGE was discontinued by Scopus in 2013. The only journal in this list that is not from the West is an open-access journal called Uluslararası İlişkiler founded in 2004 and run by International Relations Council of Turkey offering much writing on IR by Turkish authors. However, the journal has low cite scores compared to other competitive journals in the area. Journals with a high number of IR-related articles also acquire a high value of h-index. Based on these 20 most influential journals in the IR fields, a large number of topics revolve around politics and international studies.

Based on the Scopus database, the Millennium Journal of International Studies and Review of International Studies previously called the British Journal of International Studies (1975–1980) are the most productive journals with the most IR-related publications overall. Both are aged-old journals published since 1970s. The Millennium Journal of International Studies is housed at the London School of Economics (LSE) focusing on the development of IR theories. This explains the large number of documents published in this journal, as theories of IR play a crucial part in the discipline. The International Studies Perspectives is one of the newest journals, launched in 2000 with an emphasis on IR, publishing three different types of articles, namely pedagogy, policy-relevant scholarship, and practice. This journal is published by Oxford University Press in partnership with the International Studies Association.

Table 4

Most Productive Journals

Source Title	TP	%	Publisher	Cite Score	SJR 2020	SNIP 2020
Millennium Journal of International Studies	183	3.67	SAGE	2.8	0.711	1.994
Review of International Studies	166	3.33	Cambridge University Press	3	1.104	1.62
International Studies Perspectives	115	2.31	Oxford University Press	1.7	0.493	1.803
European Journal of International Relations	105	2.11	SAGE	5.8	1.76	2.653
International Studies Review	98	1.97	Oxford University Press	3.1	0.981	1.71
International Relations	95	1.91	SAGE	1.6	0.482	1.84
International Studies Quarterly	90	1.81	Oxford University Press	3.3	1.897	2.198
Journal of International Relations and Development	58	1.16	Springer Nature	3	0.597	1.253
International Organization	55	1.10	Cambridge University Press	9.2	5.513	4.187
Cambridge Review of International Affairs	53	1.06	Taylor & Francis	2.1	0.518	1.347
Uluslararası İlişkiler	50	1.00	International Relations Council of Turkey	0.2	0.112	0.252
International Affairs	45	0.90	Oxford University Press	7.2	1.776	4.235
World Politics	45	0.90	Cambridge University Press	4.5	2.423	2.599
International Studies	41	0.82	SAGE	0	0.102	0
International Politics	39	0.78	Springer Nature	1.5	0.286	0.83
Annals of The American Academy of Political and Social Science	38	0.76	SAGE	3.5	0.679	1.273
Journal of Conflict Resolution	38	0.76	SAGE	5.4	2.671	2.78

(continued)

Source Title	TP	%	Publisher	Cite Score	SJR 2020	SNIP 2020
Australian Journal of International Affairs	36	0.72	Taylor & Francis	1.7	0.377	0.803
PS Political Science and Politics	32	0.64	Cambridge University Press	2.1	0.924	1.155
International Relations of The Asia Pacific	28	0.56	Oxford University Press	2.4	0.542	1.264

Total Publications (TP).

Most Productive Authors

The top IR authors and their institutions can be located using the author information found in the gathered data. Buzan has the highest h-index, TC, and NCP of any researcher in this field, which is demonstrated in Table 5. Buzan is one of the pre-eminent figures of English school in IR focusing on security studies. Buzan is credited for coining the word securitization, one of the most widely used security concept in the field of IR. Buzan is followed by Acharya, who is a proponent of constructivist IR theory as well as a leading scholar in non-Western IR theory and inclusion in international security. Acharya mainly discusses topics on comparative regionalism, ideas, norms and practices from the global south, ASEAN centrality and international security. Other productive authors include Neumann, James, Lebow, Zalewski, Halliday, Devetak, Renger and True. All these authors that are most productive in the IR field are affiliated with Western institutions namely the UK, US, Australia, Norway or Netherlands.

Table 5

Most Productive Authors

Author Name	TP	Affiliation	NCP	TC	h	g	PY_start
Buzan, B.	26	London School of Economics and Political Science, UK	23	1310	15	23	1984
Acharya, A.	19	American University, USA	13	974	9	13	2007

(continued)

Author Name	TP	Affiliation	NCP	TC	h	g	PY_start
Neumann, I.B.	19	Fridtjof Nansens Institutt, Norway	15	473	8	15	1993
James, P.	17	University of Southern California, USA	11	164	7	11	2003
Lebow, R.N.	16	King's College London, UK	13	856	6	13	2006
Zalewski, M.	16	College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, UK	14	251	8	14	1994
Halliday, F.	15	Transnational Institute, Netherlands	13	436	9	13	1980
Devetak, R.	14	The University of Queensland, Australia	13	155	5	12	1995
Rengger, N.	14	University of St Andrews, UK	12	122	7	10	2000
True, J.	14	Monash University, Peace and Security Centre, Australia	12	438	7	12	2006

Total citations (TC); number of cited publications (NCP); Publication year started (PY_start)

Most Productive Institutions

Leading institutions are further analyzed to characterize the dispersion of IR studies publications. Table 6 shows the top 20 institutions of IR research, based on the author's affiliation. The most productive institution is the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) (118 articles) which significantly produces more articles on IR compared to other institutions. This is followed by Aberystwyth University (51 articles); The Australian National University (50 articles); University of Southern California (50 articles); University of Oxford (49 articles); King's College London (48 articles); and Harvard University (41 articles) which have more than 40 documents on IR studies. A majority of the most productive institutions on IR are from the UK. Other top relevant institutions are mainly situated in Canada, Australia and the USA.

Table 6

Top 20 Institutions of IR Studies

Author's Affiliation	Total Documents	% of Article	Country
London School of Economics and Political Science	118	2.37%	UK
Aberystwyth University	51	1.02%	UK
The Australian National University	50	1.00%	Australia
University of Southern California	50	1.00%	USA
University of Oxford	49	0.98%	UK
King's College London	48	0.96%	UK
Harvard University	41	0.82%	USA
University of Sussex	39	0.78%	UK
University of St Andrews	37	0.74%	UK
Københavns Universitet	37	0.74%	Denmark
University of Toronto	36	0.72%	Canada
American University	34	0.68%	USA
The University of Queensland	32	0.64%	Australia
The University of Manchester	31	0.62%	UK
University of Kent	31	0.62%	UK
Griffith University	30	0.60%	UK
Université McGill	29	0.58%	Canada
University of Warwick	29	0.58%	UK
University of Cambridge	29	0.58%	UK
Carleton University	27	0.54%	Canada

This data demonstrates unequivocally that the majority of IR research is carried out by Western tertiary institutions. The historical nature of IR studies may have contributed to this scenario. The Department of International Relations at LSE is one of the oldest (nearly in its 95th year) as well as the largest IR department in the world. IR subjects have been taught at LSE since 1924 and are considered the leading world centre for the development of IR subjects. The Department of International Relations is also responsible for the establishment of one

of the most prestigious IR journals, the student-run Millenium Journal of International Studies. The second top institution on IR studies, Aberystwyth University established the first chair of International Politics as early as 1919. Since then, notable IR academics such as E. H. Carr, John Garnett, and Laurence Martin have held the position. The majority of the top 20 institutions publishing IR materials contain a high proportion of IR's best experts. This resulted in the institutions' high output of IR publications on a number of topics. This research also corroborates a study by Lohaus & Wemheuer-Vogelaar (2021) which claimed that publications listed in the Web of Science (WoS) frequently feature works by writers connected to highly regarded institutions, which increases homogeneity. Due to the location of the majority of top-ranked universities, North Americans and Britons are most likely to form these connections, followed by academics that migrate after acquiring degrees from East Asia (Lohaus & Wemheuer-Vogelaar, 2021).

CONCLUSION

This paper contributes to existing bibliometric surveys of IR research by providing a fresh overview of the field as a whole. In contrast to other bibliometric investigations into the field, this paper uses a recently developed bibliometric tool to conduct a comprehensive metrological analysis of articles published on IR, with an eye towards a more global picture. An overview of the trends and development of publication, major players, as well as pivotal points of topics. A series of tables and science maps illustrate the thematic development of this field in a way that is both accessible and thought-provoking. This could help bring together and expand the bibliometric findings of prior IR literature studies.

The annual publication trends on IR studies show a gradual interest in the field. Articles on IR started being published as early as 1913 following the First World War (1914–1918) which involved over 30 nations and 20 million deaths. However, very few articles on IR were published until later in 1946 when there was a growing interest in the IR field. This may be due to the deadly conflict in the Second World War (1939–1945), which took the lives of about 75 million people (McGlinchey, 2022). The scale and impact of the Second World War have propelled many scholars to develop a discipline

that sought to manage warfare by helping nation-states to manage their relations through peaceful interactions and establishing new structures that restrict war and formalize diplomacy via international organizations such as the United Nations. Gradually more publications on IR issues were published as individuals were also counted as one of IR actors by the mid-twentieth century. Changes on a global scale have resulted from factors such as population growth and migration, shifting environmental conditions, advances in mass communication technology, the growing interdependence of the world's capital markets, and the emergence of new international and transnational organizations (Connelly, 2015). This reinforced the growing importance over time of the role of IR research to discuss new challenges. To meet the challenges, more research, publications and reference on IR studies are essential for more informed decision-making. Equally important is that such information and knowledge should come from different perspectives, approaches and fields that may be useful to consider when undertaking common agenda.

In terms of core documents, keywords or topics that mostly gained attention, the results highlight the growing awareness of the two-way nature of the relationship between the global economy and political and economic actors, systems, and institutions. This may be prompted by the growth of various international economic institutions, alongside economic turmoils and increasing international trade cooperation. Regarding the intellectual structure of the topic, most articles frequently refer to international relations theories, particularly realism and constructivism, foreign policy and diplomacy. Recent IR publications have also concentrated on the global IR agenda, prevailing events such as Covid-19, the global environment, and conflict in Russia.

In analyzing the major players in IR studies, the field is still mainly Western-oriented. The most productive journals on IR are managed by large Western international publishers; productively written by authors of Western thought and origin as well as affiliated with institutions situated in Western countries. There is a clear lack of diversity in IR publications and scholarship in terms of authors, journals or who gets cited. Such findings support the contention that the whole spectrum of concepts, tales and experiences from both Western and non-Western countries have not yet been well represented in the field of IR (Sahil & Acharya, 2022).

Some may argue that the U.S. pre-eminence in IR research may be attributable to the country's sizeable population, robust economy, and long history of involvement in international conflicts. (Hendrix & Vreede, 2019). Even Central and Eastern Europe have been overlooked in IR literature due to local factors, unimportance as well as the framing of discourse to macro categories (Alejandro, 2022). Additionally, the disparity might be brought on by the editorial bias of editors of scientific journals from Northern nations toward Southern authors, which can be successfully countered by research with sound methodology and high-quality presentation (Victoria & Moreira, 2006).

As a field of study, IR has the propensity to centre its attention on the modern social and political canons that have been developed in Europe and the West (Shilliam, 2010). The origins of the IR field had a Western bent and therefore may overlook problems (Uz Zaman & Yasmin, 2022) or disregard experiences in non-Western cultures. Although South Asian IR has made distinctive contributions to the evolution of IR, it has not yet established its own foothold because its teachings are affected by Western traditions.

There has been much discussion about diversifying IR, including critical and non-Western perspectives. Concerned that perspectives and narratives from beyond Western lands are often neglected, Acharya (2011) recommends looking into the history of the international system, the diversity of regionalism, the incorporation of area studies with IR, people-centered approaches to IR, security and development and emphasizing non-Western ideas and actors in the construction of the global order as well as expanding the epistemology of IR theory with non-Western philosophical perspectives. Acharya (2014) presents a notion of global IR that urges more diversity, particularly by acknowledging the non-Western societies' place, roles, and contributions. To contribute to the development of global IR, one must consider alternate and multiple approaches to enrich IR theories with ideas, concepts, and theories that transcend regions or specific countries (Acharya & Buzan 2017). IR theory has much to learn from other nations' experiences and scholarship (Smith, 2009; Chen, 2011).

To cultivate a more international IR, efforts have been made to encourage a more internationalist mindset and ethos in research and education while diverse national schools, methodologies, and traditions

are discussed to promote understanding and harmony (Kristensen & Tickner, 2022). Although diverse perspectives have been recognized and accepted, Andrews (2002) found that students are still largely required to study and disseminate mainstream Western perspectives. While there is a push to globalize international relations, considerable work remains to reflect on Western dominance, knowledge coloniality or power/knowledge regimes (Fonseca, 2019). This is a challenge for nations such as those in Asia, each of which has a distinct history, culture, and identity.

The findings in this research are limited to specific title search queries, focused on social science subject areas in the Scopus database only. Thus, it does not consider documents of the same subject matter which do not use these terms in its title or published in a different subject area or outside the Scopus database. It is challenging to cover the entire field of research in a single review study, as various writers may use different terms or wording in their paper titles. However, the decision to use a title search with the keywords was made to ensure that only documents that are related to the subject matter are considered for analysis. It is thus likely that some articles that are relevant to IR are not considered in this review. Nevertheless, the findings gathered from this study are expected to reflect the trends, directions and major influence in IR research. Additional databases like WoS, Google Scholar, etc., could be used in future research projects. Expanding the research to subject areas other than social science and using abstracts and keywords for the search query could further enrich the analysis.

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