

February 2021

## A Bibliometric Analysis of Journal of International Women's Studies for Period of 2002-2019: Current Status, Development, and Future Research Directions

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The Indian Council of Social Science supported this study and Research (ICSSR), a research grant (No. IMPRESS/P1083 /489/18-19/ICSSR). The authors would like to thank the editors and anonymous referees for providing helpful comments and suggestions, which improved the paper. We would also like to thank Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) for the support and growing culture of the research.

### Recommended Citation

Hassan, Rohail; Chhabra, Meghna; Shahzad, Arfan; Fox, Diana; and Hasan, Sohail (2021). A Bibliometric Analysis of Journal of International Women's Studies for Period of 2002-2019: Current Status, Development, and Future Research Directions. *Journal of International Women's Studies*, 22(1), 1-37. Available at: <https://vc.bridgew.edu/jiws/vol22/iss1/1>

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## **A Bibliometric Analysis of Journal of International Women's Studies for Period of 2002-2019: Current Status, Development, and Future Research Directions**

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## Abstract

This research paper aims to present a thorough overview of the *Journal of International Women's Studies* (JIWS). The Scopus database has been used to study the most prolific writers and frequently cited papers of the JIWS. This article considered 907 papers, which offers a map of the knowledge produced and circulated by the JIWS. It offers insights into publication activities, prominent themes, citation trends, and the state of collaborations among the contributors to the JIWS and the journal's aggregate contributions to the area of Women's Studies. Moreover, by analyzing the correlation of keywords and how they are clustered together, the authors have highlighted maximum relevant topics. They have highlighted the most popular papers in terms of the number of citations. Additionally, the research paper features the past, the present, and the future trends in JIWS through an analysis of the average appearance date of keywords. The study offers a retrospective analysis of the content published in the journal. Over time, the JIWS has seen an increase in publication activity and citations, reflecting its growing presence among Women's Studies and feminist journals. The findings also reveal its relevance and diverse contributions to research in the area of women's studies, gender studies, and feminisms. The primary purpose of the study is to inform potential writers by contributing a variety of indicators to develop papers targeting JIWS, understanding the emerging topics and research areas for publishing their future research in the journal.

*Keywords:* literature, women's studies, Scopus, bibliometric, clustering, scholar, citations, country, institutions, Journal of International Women's Studies, feminism, gender, gender studies

## Introduction

The *Journal of International Women's Studies* (JIWS) completed 21 years of active publishing in 2019, from its inception in 1999 on the website of the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts (MCLA), subsequently transferred to the Bridgewater State University (BSU) website. Since its first edition, the JIWS has been devoted to the publication of original and relevant research to provide a platform for activists, scholars, and students in order to help them explore the relationships among theories of gender, sexuality, and women's studies from across the globe exploring the different regional contexts in the diverse feminist issues. The JIWS is a feminist journal, and by virtue of its diverse collection, it aims to create opportunities for bridge-building across the conventional divisions of scholarship and activism, "western" and "third world" feminisms, professionals and students, men, women, and all genders, along with the hegemony of ableism. Over the past 21 years, the JIWS has been an active and effective carrier for advancing knowledge in the areas earlier mentioned, with Dr. Diana Fox of Bridgewater State University, joined in 2010 by Dr. Cami Anderson of Ferris State University, as its executive editors. The JIWS is Bridgewater State University's primary academic journal. Bridgewater State University is the United States' oldest teacher education institution, a pioneering university to have dedicated an entire building to teachers' education (Bradfield, 2011). The University has 30 academic departments, teaching various subjects that range from Finance and Accounting to Dance and Theatre.

The JIWS features among the top 100 'Gender Studies' sources in Scimago's Journal Ranking (SJR), bearing two years' cites per document score of 0.44. The journal is international in scope and is frequently consulted for its original intellectual outputs. It is a Q3 journal with an SJR ranking of 0.206 and an H index (2019) of 20, which means 20 articles of this journal have

more than 20 number of citations (Hirsch, 2005). The journal is indexed with many databases, including EBSCO, Elsevier Bibliographic Databases, Scopus, and ProQuest Bibliographical References.

In the recent literature evaluating journal publications, many studies have been developed focusing on particular journals inspired by various issues, including conferences, special events such a round tables, or an upcoming anniversary of a prominent member of a field. A few of these studies approach their analyses of journals using bibliometrics. In contrast, others prefer other approaches such as literature reviews (Colquitt and Zapata-Phelam, 2007) or editorial reviews (Van Fleet et al., 2006). This article investigates the contributions that the JIWS has sought to make towards the description and analysis of the condition of women's lives and gender in historical and cross-cultural perspectives. To evaluate this objective, the authors have conducted a bibliometric overview of the JIWS the period between 2002 and 2019. Such endeavors are common in extant literature. For example, Donthu et al., (2020) provided a retrospective view on the 45 years of Journal of Business Research (JBR), Belluci et al., (2020) analyzed The Journal of Intellectual Capital from 2014-2018; Laudano et al.,(2018) analyzed a decade of The International Journal Entrepreneurship and Small Business; Baker et al., (2019) studied thirty years of the Global Finance Journal; Donthu et al., (2020) and presented a retrospective overview of The Asia Pacific Journal of Marketing and Logistics; Donthu et al., (2020) analyzed the intellectual and publication patterns of The International Journal of Advertising from 1982-2019; Donthu et al.,(2020) furnished a retrospective study of The Journal of Strategic Marketing during from 1993 to 2019; Fernandez et al., (2019) analyzed The Journal of Business to Business Marketing from 1992 to 2016 in order to study its publication patterns. In addition, many other studies use citation analysis to calculate the effect of articles and identify the ones with the most impact on the history of a particular journal. White & McCain (1989, p.119) have offered the following definition and explanation of bibliometrics: "Bibliometrics is the quantitative study of literature as they are reflected in bibliographies. Its task, immodestly enough, is to provide evolutionary models of science, technology, and scholarships". This article aims to analyze articles published in JIWS between 2002 and 2019, based on the prevailing publication trends and impactful articles and the current state of collaborations and intellectual structure of its current search.

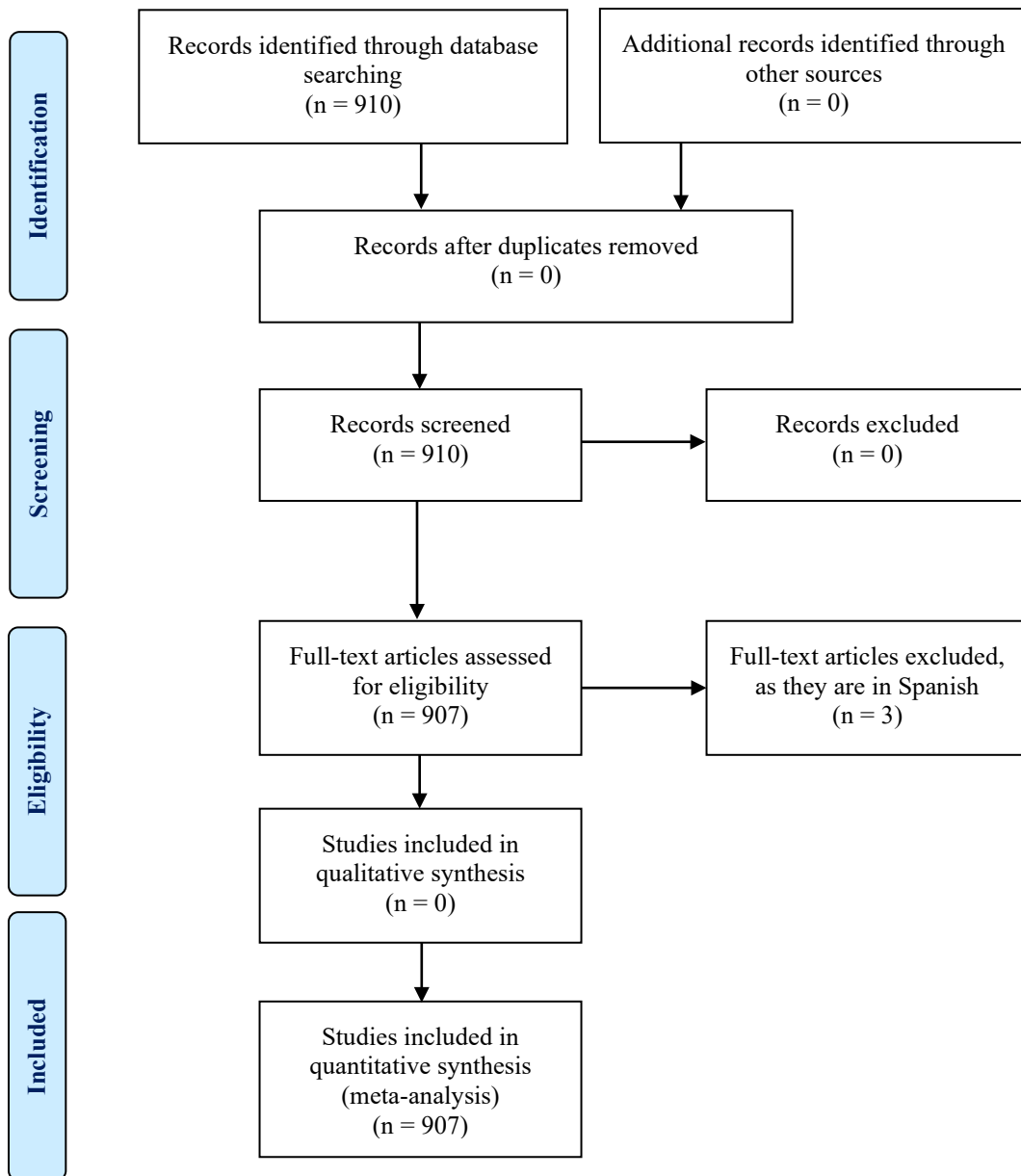
To this end, the following research questions (R.Q.s) are posed: RQ1. What are the current publication trends in the JIWS? RQ2. Which are the most impactful articles in the JIWS? RQ3. Which themes, among scholars, are the most famous involving JIWS? RQ4. What are the names of the most popular authors on the JIWS? RQ5. What are the latest updates on collaboration involving the JIWS? RQ6. What kind of an intellectual structure is involved in the current research in the JIWS? RQ7. Are there any areas involving the JIWS that require additional studies?

This study is structured in the following manner: data collection and methods (Section 2); results and discussion (Section 3); conclusions, limitations, and future lines of research (Section 4); acknowledgments; and bibliographical references.

## **Methods**

Using bibliometrics, this study analyzed 907 publications between 2002 and 2019 (selecting only as document types: Article, Conference Paper, Editorial, Note, Review, Book Chapter, Article in Press, Conference Review, Book, Letter, Short Survey, and Erratas)

collected from Scopus following the characteristics and methods of research rendered in other published bibliometric investigations (Merigó et al. 2015a). Scopus was chosen as a source based on varied and numerous references, abstracts, and scientific summaries. Contemporarily, Scopus has more than 50 million documents and 37,000 titles. The database is updated daily, and it is a reliable source for effectively and swiftly obtaining worldwide academic information. Moreover, the utility h-index that displays a publication's quality, an author, or a journal (Hirsch 2005) cannot be ignored. To obtain the 907 results from the Scopus database, the following step was taken; the database was filtered with the “Source Title” only to seek publications with the name “JIWS.” This step helped retrieve 910 documents, of which three (3) documents had to be sidelined as they were published in the Spanish language. A mapping visualization of the bibliographic data was created to get better and deeper insights into the research questions' bibliometric results. To that end, the VOS viewer software (Van Eck and Waltman 2010; i.e., <http://www.vosviewer.com/>) was used.



**Figure1: PRISMA Flow Diagram**

*Source: Authors own compilations*

## Results

### *Document and Source Types*

Among the 907 records in the sample, articles (86.33%) comprise the most numerous types of documents. Interestingly, this is followed by review articles (9.81%) and editorials (2.87%). Review articles are instruments that enable discerning readers to 'keep up' with the literature (Crawford, 2007), while journal editorials help readers choose the meritorious contributions in literature and endorse procedures and approaches approved by an authority in that particular field. Review articles also enable editors to contact readers while also acting as guardians for the practice community (Gianonni, 2008). This is followed by research notes

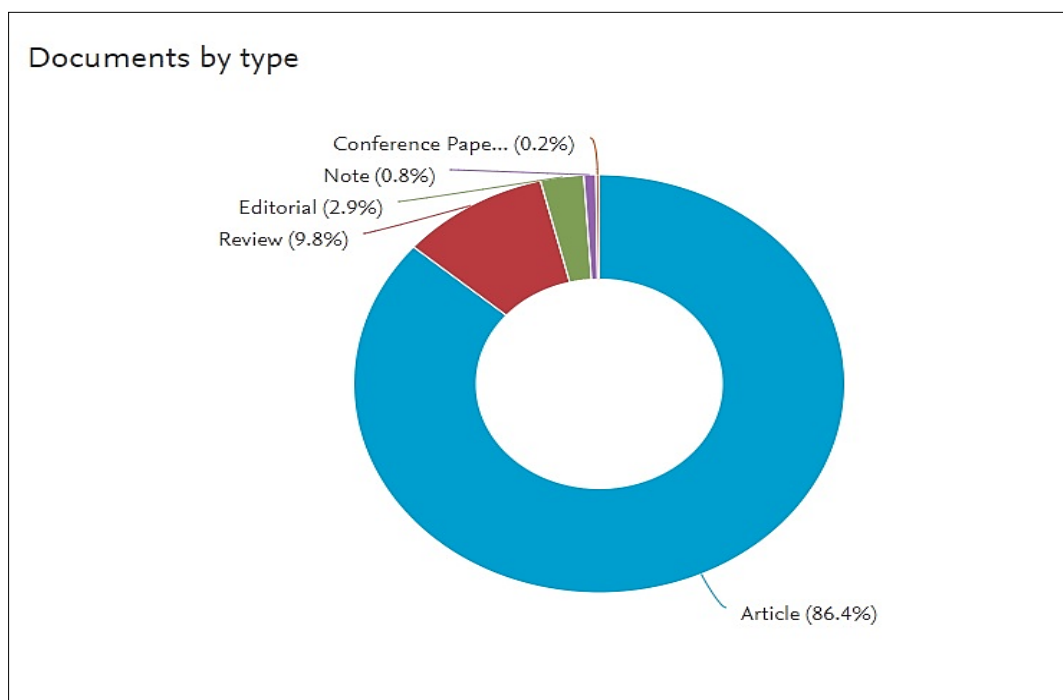
(0.77%), and finally, conference papers (0.22%). A detailed description of various types of documents is presented in Table 1 and Figure 2<sup>6</sup>. In addition, the JIWS has published 44 special issues related to Women’s Studies from its founding year, focusing on specialized topics within Women’s Studies, feminisms, and gender and sexuality issues, globally. Besides, the JIWS publishes special issues emerging out of conferences.

**Table 1: Document Type**

<b>Document Type</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>% (N=907)</b>
Article	783	86.33
Conference Paper	2	0.22
Editorial	26	2.87
Note	7	0.77
Review	89	9.81
Book Chapter	0	0
Article in Press	0	0
Conference Review	0	0
Book	0	0
Letter	0	0
Short Survey	0	0
Erratum	0	0
Number of Special Issues in JIWS	44	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>100.00</b>

<sup>6</sup> Since the study was completed, the JIWS has added additional genres of publication, including film reviews, “feminist reflections”, fictional/creative works (including poetry, diagrams, drawings, photos and other visuals) as well as short films/documentaries.





**Figure 2: Document Type**

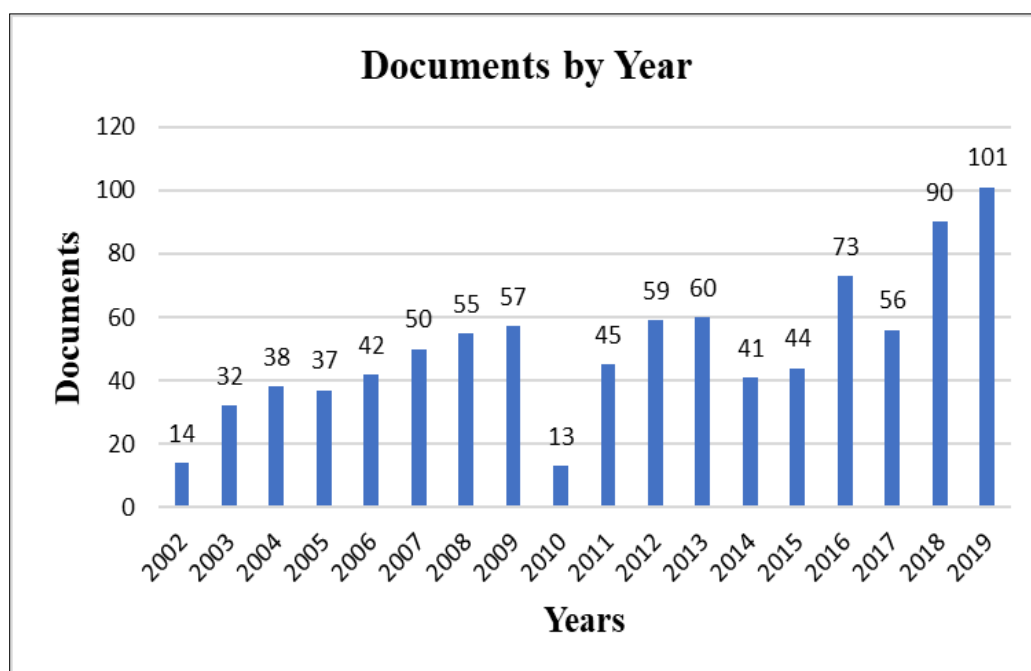
*Year of Publications - Evolution of Published Studies*

Table 2 indicates the evolution of publications of the JIWS during the period from 2002 to 2019. There has been a gradual increase in its publications from its inception in 2002 till 2009. The period 2010 – 2015 saw a fall in the number of publications, which has seen a subsequent rise since 2016 (except for 2017). The Journal published 101 documents in the year 2019, which is its highest ever and accounting for 11.14% of its total publications to date. This indicates a growing researcher interest in the field of women’s studies. The rise in the number of women’s studies created an impact of feminism on various disciplines, with a slow and continuous ‘mainstreaming ’of feminist research and theory in social sciences and humanities (Jackson, 2016). Besides, the number of women’s studies programs has increased steadily all over the world. With these programs' development, a sizeable chunk of scholarly literature has also been amassed (Tsay & Li, 2017).

**Table 2: Year of Publications**

Year	Frequency	% (N=907)	Cumulative Percent
2002	14	1.54	1.54
2003	32	3.53	5.07
2004	38	4.19	9.26
2005	37	4.08	13.34
2006	42	4.63	17.97
2007	50	5.51	23.48
2008	55	6.06	29.55
2009	57	6.28	35.83

2010	13	1.43	37.27
2011	45	4.96	42.23
2012	59	6.50	48.73
2013	60	6.62	55.35
2014	41	4.52	59.87
2015	44	4.85	64.72
2016	73	8.05	72.77
2017	56	6.17	78.94
2018	90	9.92	88.86
2019	101	11.14	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>



**Figure 3: Document by Year**

### *Languages of Documents*

English publications comprise almost the entire sample (99.77%), and 3 Spanish articles were excluded from the sample (Table 3). The English language is used most frequently in academic publications (Escamilla-Fajardoetal, 2020).<sup>7</sup>

<sup>7</sup> Since the completion of the study, the JIWS has included an Arabic translation of a poem and a Japanese translation of an article.

**Table 3: Languages Used for Publications**

Language	Frequency	% (N=910)
English	907	99.77
Spanish	3*	0.33
<b>Total</b>	<b>910</b>	<b>100.00</b>

\*3 documents have been published in the Spanish language, which was excluded from the sample.

#### *Subject Areas*

The articles fall within either the social sciences or humanities (Table 4), reflecting scholarly attention to women, gender, and sexuality across the disciplines within these domains. Moreover, feminist researchers have embraced new research techniques, theoretical perspectives, and methodological approaches. Both post-structural and influenced, at least to a certain extent, by the emergent post-structural literature in social science (Ritchie et al., 2005; Ateljevic et al., 2006).

**Table 4. Subject Area**

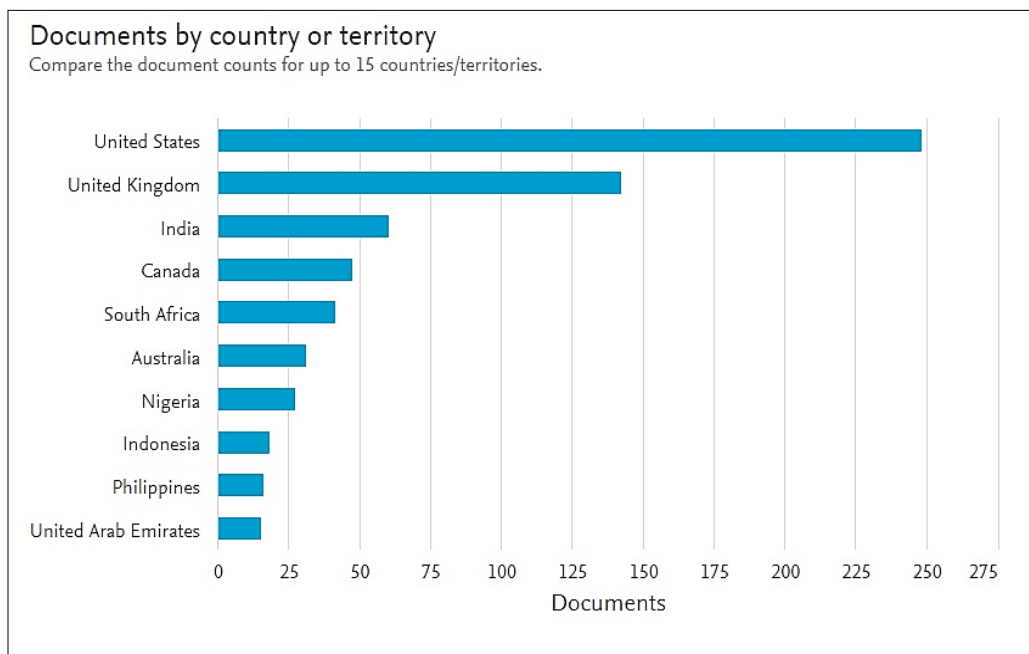
Subject Area	Frequency	% (N=907)
Social Sciences or Humanities	907	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>907</b>	<b>100</b>

#### **Geographical Distribution of Publications – Most Influential Countries**

Table 5 and Figure 4 present the percentage of contributions of the top 20 countries in the JIWS. The leading country publishing in the journal is United States (27.34%), followed by the United Kingdom (15.66%). This data validates that the original nerve center for women's studies was in the United States and the United Kingdom (Tsay, 2017) and underscores the challenges that Women's Studies programs face in their integration into universities globally. India (6.62%) ranks third on the table, not surprisingly given the strength of Indian feminism; however, this finding does not indicate the stable status of Women's Studies programs in India, which currently face budget cuts throughout the nation. India records a high growth rate. Despite adequate measures taken by the Indian Government to promote gender equality, the gender gap persists (Sumanjeet, 2016); many articles from Indian examine the lacuna between Indian laws and sociocultural norms around gender inclusivity and equity. Many gender-based studies in the Indian context seek to ascertain the causes of the persisting gender inequalities in the country. Japan, Egypt, and Belgium are at the bottom of the table, contributing only 0.88% to the total publications. Another interesting factor is that there are no studies from many of the countries that rank highest for gender equality (Byrnes, 2019), including Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Philippines, Ireland, France, Denmark, etc. substantiating the fact that gender-based researches are more common in countries with existing gender gaps across social, political, economic and cultural life.

**Table 5: Top 10 Countries contributing to the Publications**

Country	Frequency	% (N=907)
United States	248	27.34
United Kingdom	142	15.66
India	60	6.62
Canada	47	5.18
South Africa	41	4.52
Australia	31	3.42
Nigeria	27	2.98
Indonesia	18	1.98
Philippines	16	1.76
United Arab Emirates	15	1.65



**Figure 4: Top 10 Countries Contributing to the Publications**

### *Authorship*

Table 6 presents the number of authors per document. The maximum articles have been written by one author (71.55%), followed by two (18.63%), and three (5.29%), four (2.76%) and so on. It can be safely stated that published papers with more than one author do not appear to be of a higher quality than those written by one author. For instance, two authors' papers often include the addition of a senior researcher's name to add weight and value (Bridgestock, 1991) and indicate support of younger scholars and their entry into the field and the JIWS' mission of publishing student works.

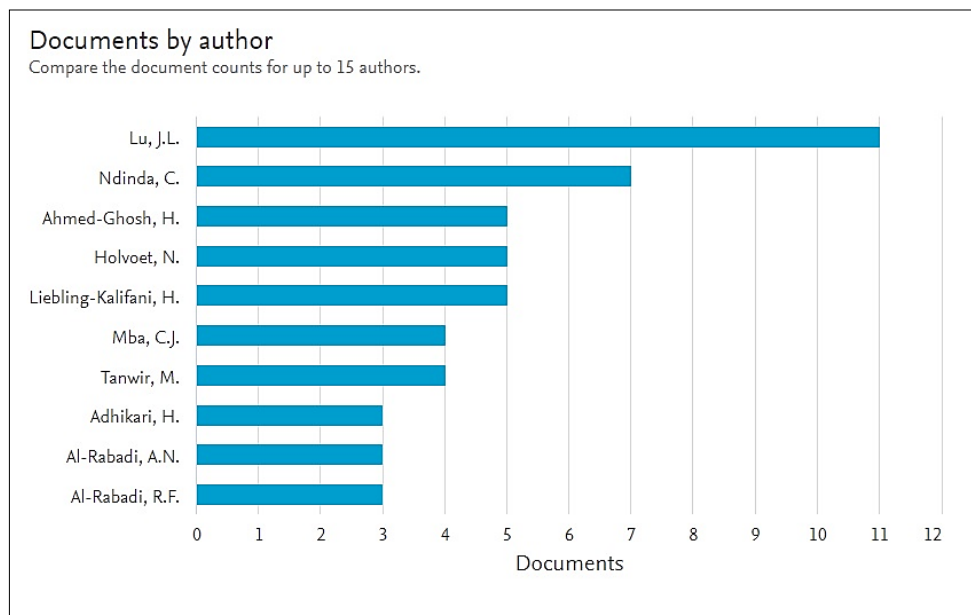
**Table 6: Number of Authors(s) per document**

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Indonesia	18	1.98
Philippines	16	1.76
United Arab Emirates	15	1.65
Jordan	14	1.54
Germany	11	1.21
Spain	10	1.10
Bangladesh	9	0.99
Iran	9	0.99
Israel	9	0.99
Turkey	9	0.99
Belgium	8	0.88
Egypt	8	0.88
Japan	8	0.88

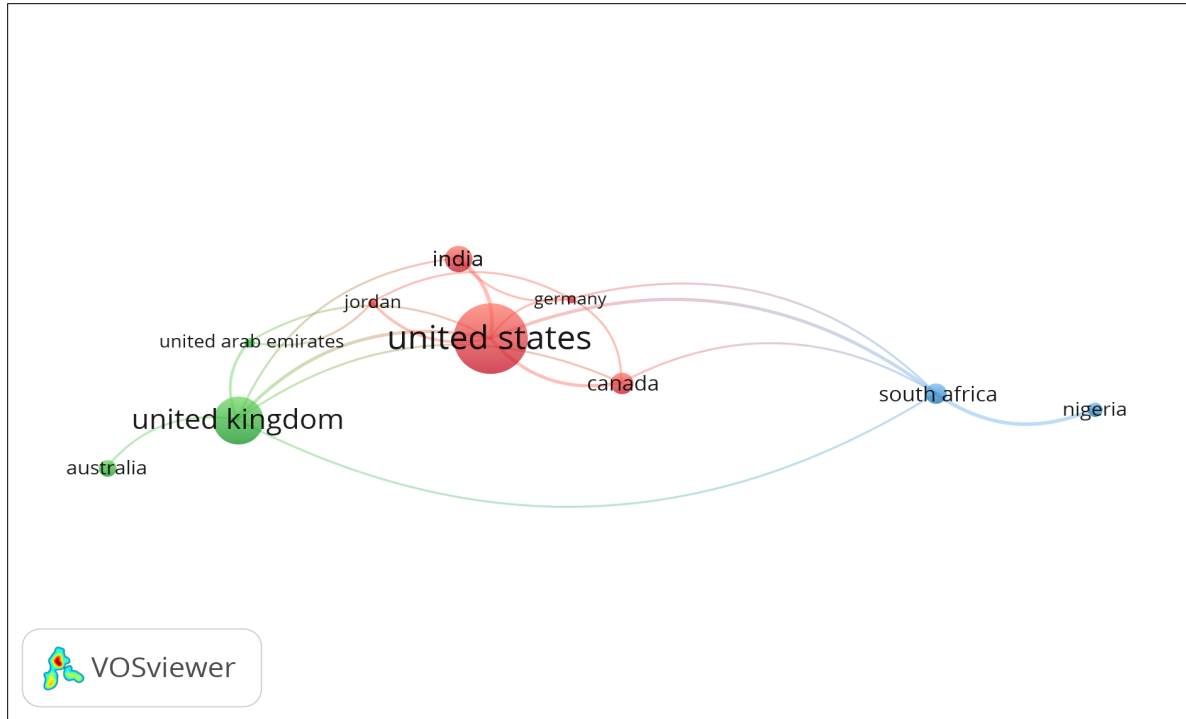
Table 7 and Figure 5 present the most productive authors in the journal. Jinky Leilani Lu of the Philippines dominates the table with 11 documents, followed by Catherine Ndinda of South Africa with seven documents. Other active authors are Huma Ahmed-Ghosh (United States), Nathalie Holvoet (Belgium), and Helen Liebling-Kalifani (United Kingdom), each with five documents. Interestingly, all these five authors are women validating that the percentage of women authors in articles with clear gender studies focus is more than that of male authors (Sodurland & Madison, 2015).

**Table 7: Most Productive Authors**

Author's Name	No. of Documents	Percentage (%)
Lu, J.L.	11	1.21
Ndinda, C.	7	0.77
Ahmed-Ghosh, H.	5	0.55
Holvoet, N.	5	0.55
Liebling-Kalifani, H.	5	0.55
Mba, C.J.	4	0.44
Tanwir, M.	4	0.44
Adhikari, H.	3	0.33
Al-Rabadi, A.N.	3	0.33
Al-Rabadi, R.F.	3	0.33
Berger, R.	3	0.33
Clancy, L.	3	0.33
Fox, D.J.	3	0.33
Imran, R.	3	0.33
Inberg, L.	3	0.33
Karolak, M.	3	0.33
Kongolo, M.	3	0.33
Kranz, S.	3	0.33
McFerson, H.M.	3	0.33
McLaren, H.J.	3	0.33



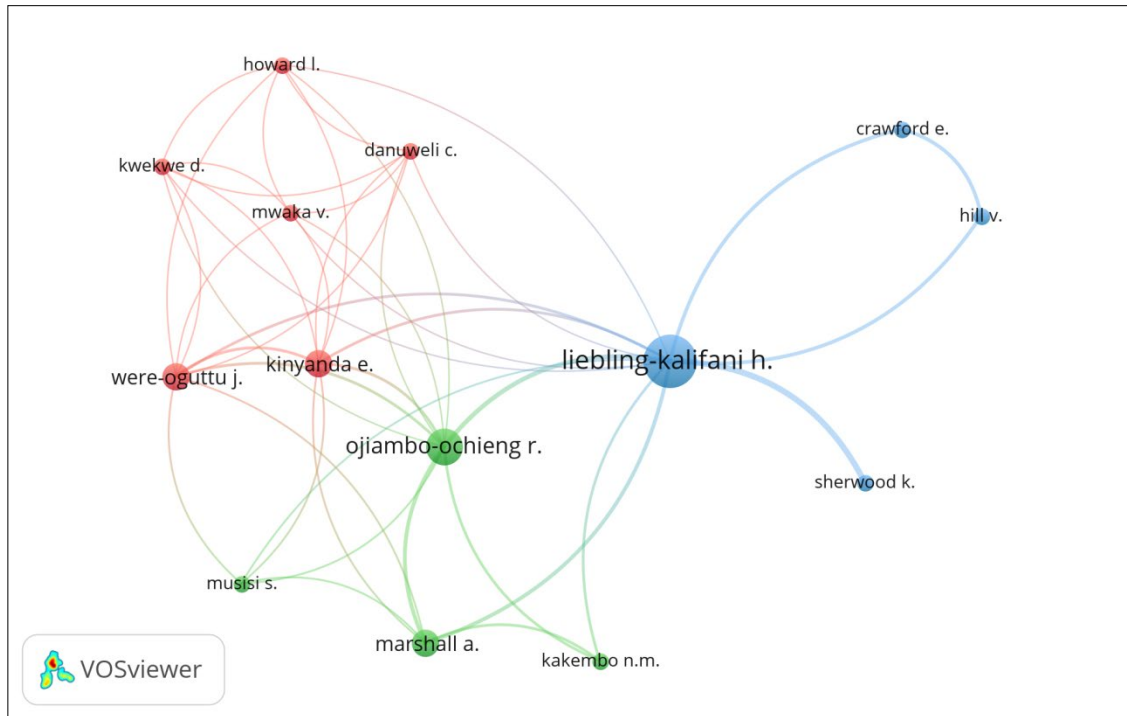
**Figure 5: Most Productive Authors**



**Figure 6: Network visualization map of co-authorship**

Unit of analysis = Countries  
 Counting method: Full counting  
 Minimum number of documents of a country = 10  
 Minimum number of citations of a country = 10

Cooperation among various scholars is necessary for the development of any field, particularly in advancing the transnational objectives of feminisms; thus, the authors urge more cross-country cooperation (Bakeretal, 2020). However, it should be noted that special issues featuring publications from conferences in particular but not exclusively, excel in this area. Figure 6, Figure 7, and Figure 8 present the degree of cooperation among scholars with a unit of analysis as countries, authors, and organizations respectively publishing in JIWS. The influential countries in terms of collaborative efforts are the United Kingdom, India, South Africa, United States, Canada, Nigeria, Australia, United Arab Emirates, and Germany. This reveals a robust collaborative network spanning across all continents.



**Figure 7: Network Visualization Map of the co-authorship**

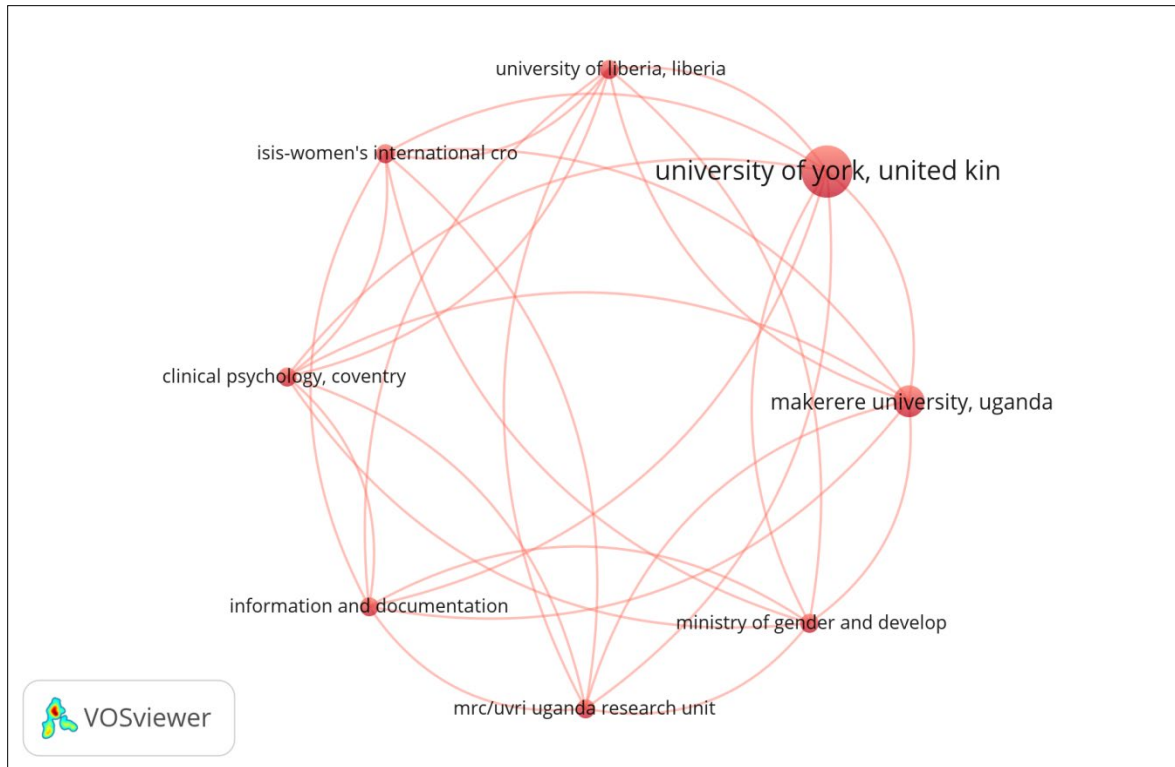
Unit of analysis = Authors

Counting method: Fractional counting

Minimum number of documents of an author = 1

Minimum number of citations of an author = 3





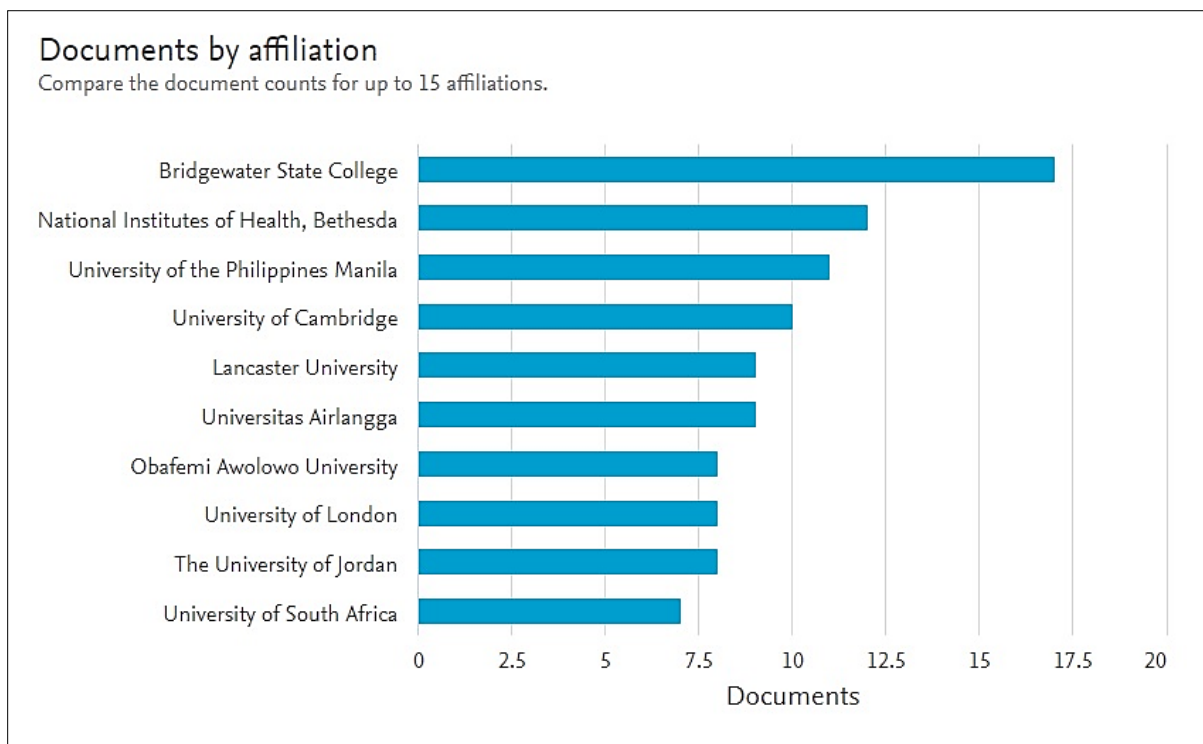
**Figure 8: Network visualization map of co-authorship**

Unit of analysis = Organizations  
 Counting method: Fractional counting  
 Minimum number of documents of an organization = 1  
 Minimum number of citations of an organization = 1

Table 8 shows the top institutions affiliated with JIWS' authors contributing at least five articles to the journal. The JIWS' authors affiliated with Bridgewater State University, United States, contributed the highest count of articles (17), followed by the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, United States (12), University of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines (11), University of Cambridge, United Kingdom (10) and so on. However, the most popular articles in terms of citations are from Coventry University, United Kingdom, and Coventry School of Law & Department of Clinical Psychology. Thus, articles from Coventry University, United Kingdom top the list of the most popular articles. This is followed by the University of York, United Kingdom, and Makerer University, Uganda. However, from the country list of the most cited articles in the JIWS, the United States tops the list, followed by the United Kingdom, India, South Africa, Australia, Nigeria, and Indonesia (Figure 10).

**Table 8: Most influential institutions with a minimum of five publications**

Institution	Frequency	% (N=907)
Bridgewater State College	17	1.87
National Institutes of Health, Bethesda	12	1.32
University of the Philippines, Manila	11	1.21
University of Cambridge	10	1.10
Lancaster University	9	0.99
Universitas Airlangga	9	0.99
Obafemi Awolowo University	8	0.88
University of London	8	0.88
The University of Jordan	8	0.88
University of South Africa	7	0.77



**Figure 9: Most influential institutions with a minimum of five publications**

### *Top Funding Institutions*

The University and publicly funded research-backed a total of 38 documents from the sample. Universitas Airlangga (3) and the European Research Council (2) rank on top of the list. A few efforts had been carried out to analyze how university and publicly funded research and development made an economic impact. e.g., Salter and Martin, 2001, and Bergman, 2010. These studies reveal a considerable contribution of academic research to economic growth.

Investments in basic research by governments and universities help national actors keep up with and, sometimes, contribute to the world science system (Salter & Martin, 2000). Table 9 presents a comprehensive list of funding institutions that have funded research/research published in the JIWS.<sup>8</sup>

**Table 9: List of Funding Institutions**

<b>Funding Sponsor</b>	<b>n*</b>	<b>% **</b>	<b>Funding Sponsor</b>	<b>n*</b>	<b>% **</b>
UniversitasAirlangga	3	0.33	Newcastle University	1	0.11
European Research Council Arts and Humanities Research Council	2	0.22	NorgesForskningsrÅ¥d	1	0.11
ConsejoNacional de Ciencia, Tecnologíae InnovaciónTecnológica	1	0.11	Seventh Framework Programme	1	0.11
Dirección para el Desarrollo de la Ciencia y el Conocimiento	1	0.11	Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada	1	0.11
Direktorat Jenderal Pendidikan Tinggi	1	0.11	StyrelsenfÅrInternationelltUtvec klingsamarbete	1	0.11
EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Medical Imaging	1	0.11	Thai Health Promotion Foundation	1	0.11
Economic and Social Research Council	1	0.11	United States Agency for International Development	1	0.11
European Regional Development Fund	1	0.11	Universitas Sumatera Utara	1	0.11
Financiadora de Estudios e Projetos	1	0.11	University of Bahrain	1	0.11
Fonds	1	0.11	University of Edinburgh	1	0.11
WetenschappelijkOnderzoek	1	0.11	University of Maryland	1	0.11
Medical Research Council	1	0.11	University of Michigan	1	0.11
Ministry of Health and Family Welfare	1	0.11	University of Texas at San Antonio	1	0.11
Ministry of Home Affairs – Singapore	1	0.11	University of the Philippines	1	0.11
Ministry of the Interior and Safety	1	0.11	W.K. Kellogg Foundation	1	0.11
National Institutes of Health	1	0.11	Water Research Commission	1	0.11
National Research Council of Science and Technology	1	0.11	Western University	1	0.11
National Research Foundation	1	0.11	Undefined	885	95.81

\*n = document count; \*\*% = N = 907

<sup>8</sup> There is a likelihood of smaller, local funding sources not included in search criteria.

## Citation Analysis

The impact of a piece of research is the degree to which it has been useful to other researchers” (Shadbolt et al. 2006, p. 202; see also Bornmann & Daniel 2007a). Table 10 presents the citation metrics of the 907 records from the year 2002 to 2019. Over 17 years, the total number of citations is 3730, resulting in 219.41 citations per year and 4.11 citations per paper. Citations are intended to indicate that a publication has utilized the contents of several other publications (in the form of others ideas, research results, etc.); thus, the number of citations applied in research assessment serves as a determiner of the influence of the research (Lutz Bornmann1, 2008).

**Table 10: Citation Matrix**

<b>Metrics</b>	<b>Data</b>
Publication years	2002-2019
Citation years	17 (2002-2019)
Papers	907
Citations	3730
Citations/year	219.41
Citations/paper	4.11
Citations/author	3.26
Papers/author	0.79
Authors/paper	1.26
h-index	20

Tsay (2009) reports that citations are one sign of influence. Table 11 and Figure 11 display a list of publications with the maximum influence of the JIWS from 2002 to 2019. All the top-cited JIWS’ articles are efforts to demonstrate the subjective, structural, and social positioning of women under various contexts and regions. The most widely cited article, “Ain’t I a woman? Revisiting intersectionality,” authored by Avtar Brah & Anne Phoenix (2004), cited 626 times in Scopus, revisits debates on intersectionality to approach current gender issues with a new perspective. A study about the intersections of social class with respect to gender and ‘race ’or sexuality revealed that a more dynamic and deep understanding could be achieved by studying these angles rather than just putting the limelight on social class. The article shows 39,356 downloads since 2013 on the journal website. Laura McCullough (2004) created a ‘Force Concept Inventory’, a revised version of physics concepts' frequently used tests. It combined essentially masculine contexts such as cannonballs, hockey, rockets, etc. This updated version was also designed with contexts that were essentially feminine 300 college students were randomly selected to undertake this test. As a result, the aggregate score for men and women remained unchanged, although, on individual examination, noticeable results were discovered when test questions were examined individually. She concluded that context could affect performance on a physics appraisal for both men and women.

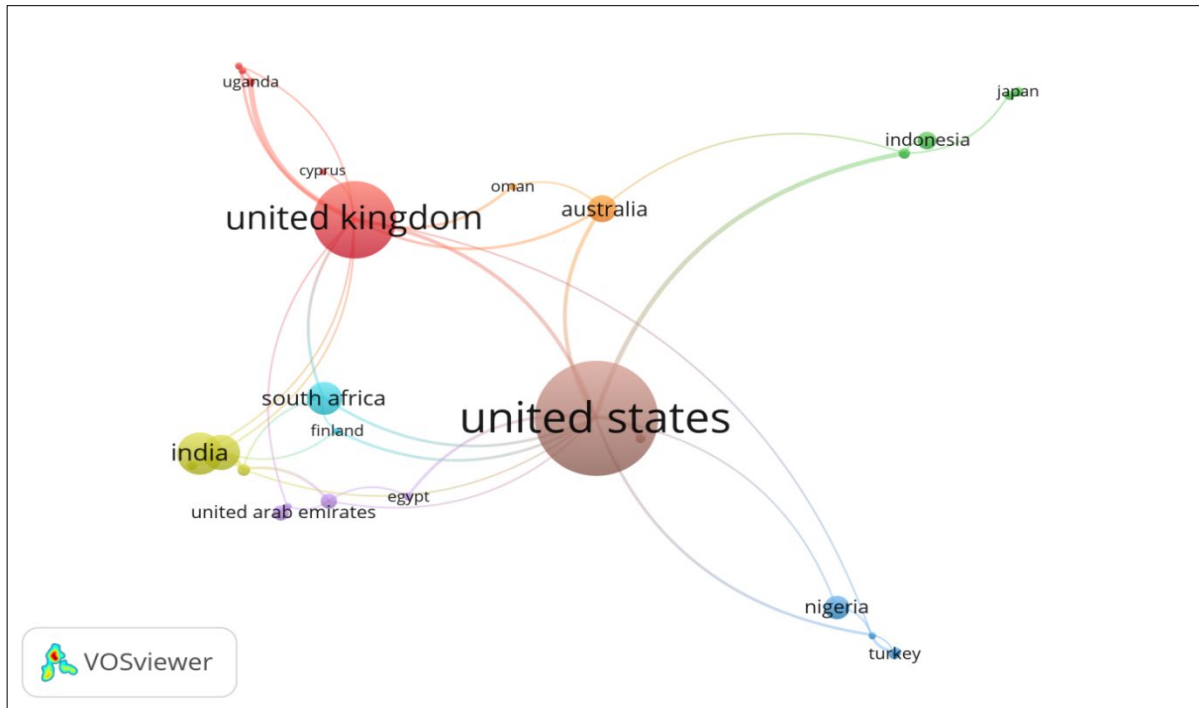
Hazel M. McPerson (2010) reviewed selected issues for poverty among women in Sub-Saharan Africa; Liebling-Kalifani et al., (2008) did a study on women subjected to violence in Northern Uganda emphasizing the overlooked health aftermath of war; Lorraine Charles and Kate Denman (2013) studied the adversity of Syrian and Palestinian Syrian women refugees in Lebanon. A fascinating study by Nicolle Doerr (2007) highlighted that many progressive social movements were operational in the European Social Forums. They attempted to construct “another world” alongside “another public sphere” privately within their participatory and

deliberative democracy practices in public forums. This consists of combating discrimination against women in general and particularly women who did not belong to parts of Western Europe. He firmly took to his point of departure, the case of “women without,” that is, financially disadvantaged women activists who face obstacles teaming up in transnational meetings because of the border or visa restrictions. Thus, it can be seen that the articles on women’s studies in the *JWS*, comprise an extensive distribution of assorted subjects, signifying that its emphasis is on both interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research areas. The journal covers various subjects, including psychology, sociology, history, political science, education, and religion. The studies depict a continual field of research that is in dynamic interaction with society. The journal studies are not constrained to a particular country or territory and cannot be represented by a few research areas and strategies in women’s studies. The approach is multi-disciplinary and transdisciplinary.

**Table 11: Highly cited articles - Most Influential Papers**

No.	Authors	Title	Year	Cites	Cites per Year
1	Brah A., Phoenix A.	Ain’t I a woman? Revisiting intersectionality	2004	626	41.73
2	Dias K.	The Ana sanctuary: Women’s pro-anorexia narratives in cyberspace	2003	115	7.19
3	Hey V.	Perverse pleasures - Identity work and the paradoxes of greedy institutions	2004	53	3.53
4	Ahmed-Ghosh H.	A history of women in Afghanistan: Lessons learnt for the future or yesterdays and tomorrow: Women in Afghanistan	2003	43	2.69
5	McCullough L.	Gender, context, and physics assessment	2004	42	2.80
6	Graff A.	Lost between the waves? The paradoxes of feminist chronology and activism in contemporary Poland	2003	38	2.38
7	McFerson H.M.	Poverty among women in Sub-Saharan Africa: A review of selected issues	2010	34	3.78
8	Liebling-Kalifani H., Ojiambo-Ochieng R., Marshall A., Were-Oguttu J., Musisi S., Kinyanda E.	Violence against women in Northern Uganda: The neglected health consequences of war	2008	33	3.00
9	Newsom V.A., Lenge L.	Arab women, social media, and the arab spring: Applying the framework of digital reflexivity to analyze	2012	32	4.57

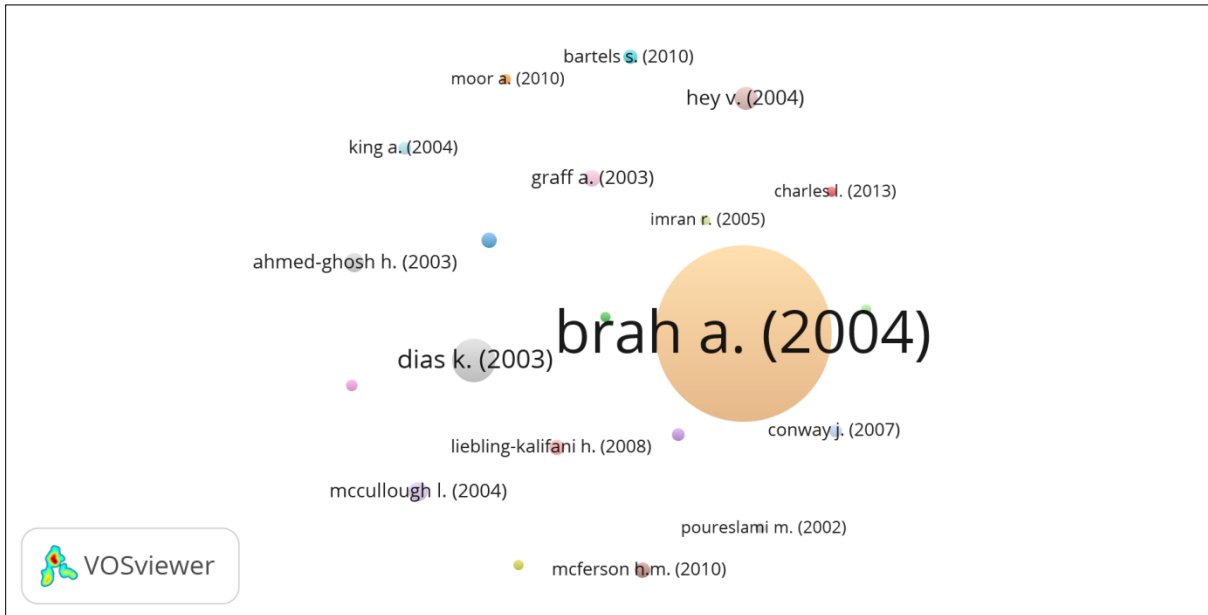
gender and online activism					
10	Bartels S., Scott J., Leaning J., Mukwege D., Lipton R., VanRooyen M.	Surviving sexual violence in Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo	2010	29	3.22
11	Conway J.	Transnational feminism and the World Social Forum: Encounters and transformations in anti-globalization spaces	2007	28	2.33
12	King A.	The prisoner of gender: Foucault and the disciplining of the female body	2004	27	1.80
13	Richter-Devroe S.	Palestinian women's everyday resistance: Between normality and normalization	2011	26	3.25
14	Khosla N.	The ready-made garments industry in Bangladesh: A means to reducing gender-based social exclusion of women?	2009	25	2.50
15	Al-Sadi R., Belwal R., Al-Badi R.	Woman entrepreneurship in the Al- Batinah region of Oman: An identification of the barriers	2011	22	2.75
16	Moor A.	She dresses to attract, he perceives seduction: A gender gap in attribution of intent to women's revealing style of dress and its relation to blaming the victims of sexual violence	2010	22	2.44
17	Charles L., Denman K.	Syrian and palestiniansyrian refugees in lebanon: The plight of women and children	2013	21	3.50
18	Rafferty Y.	International dimensions of discrimination and violence against girls: A human rights perspective	2013	21	3.50
19	Doerr N.	Is 'another' public sphere actually possible? The case of "women without" in the European Social Forum process as a critical test for deliberative democracy	2007	21	1.75
20	Poureslami M., Osati- Ashtiani F.	Assessing knowledge, attitudes, and behavior of adolescent girls in suburban districts of Tehran about dysmenorrhea and menstrual hygiene	2002	21	1.24



**Figure 10: Network visualization map of the citation by countries**

Minimum number of documents of an author = 1

Minimum number of citations of an author = 5



**Figure 11: Network visualization map of the citation by documents**

Minimum number of citations of a document = 20

*Keyword analysis*

Subsequent to the presentation of the number of papers published in the JIWS, and an

overview of the authors and countries, we proceed to an examination of the keywords. Using the text-mining routine VOS viewer 1.6.5 (Van Eck and Waltman, 2010), we contribute a visualization of the research streams developed by this extensive number of papers. This methodology has been verified in current bibliometric studies (Marzi et al., 2017a; 2017b). The text-mining routine creates a map, where the terms' distance is understood as an implication of the relatedness among various keywords. Conclusively, the smaller the distance between two or more keywords, the more substantially the terms are related to each other. In order to judge the relatedness of the terms, the co-occurrences in the publications were analyzed (Van Eck et al., 2010).

Following the terms analysis, the next step is the deployment of a cluster analysis. The basis of cluster analysis is the measurement of intra-cluster and inter-cluster diversity to understand the extent of diversity based on knowledge within each cluster (Van Eck and Waltman, 2014). Specifically, regarding this bibliometric study, the keywords' analysis has been done for 'Author Keywords', including those keywords that appear at least five times in the database. To guarantee data reliability, we relied on a manual selection, which resulted in 46 keywords out of a total of 83, which were found suitable for the study. The keywords that could not explain anything by themselves were filtered out (e.g., 'literature', 'age', 'content analysis' etc.) following Ding et al. (2019).



**Figure 12: Keywords density visualization**

*Keywords density overview*

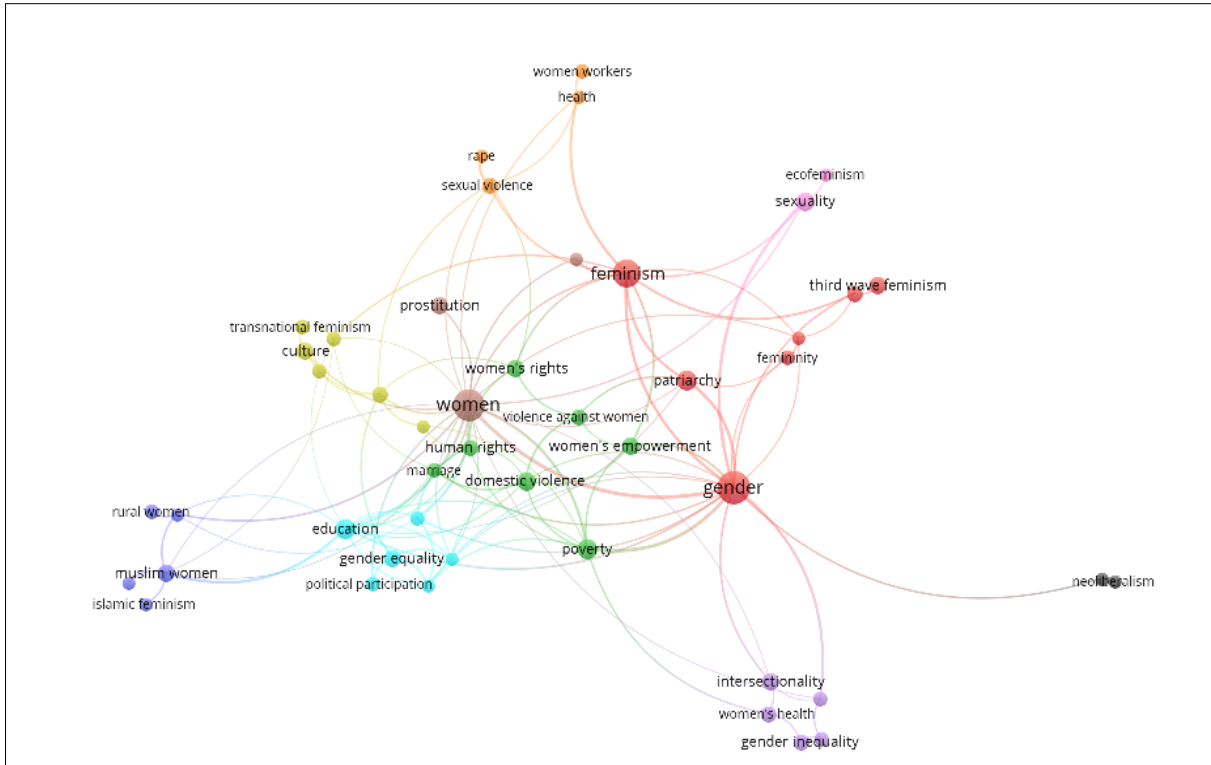
Table 12 shows that trailing behind gender (77) and women (73), the most popular keywords are feminism (45), education (16), patriarchy (16), poverty (16), domestic violence (13), sexuality (12), Muslim women (11), women’s empowerment (11) and gender equality (10).



**Table 12: Keywords density in detail**

#	Keyword	Occurrences	#	Keyword	Occurrences
1	gender	77	24	discrimination	6
2	women	73	25	femininity	6
3	feminism	45	26	gender roles	6
4	education	16	27	higher education	6
5	patriarchy	16	28	Islam	6
6	poverty	16	29	marriage	6
7	domestic violence	13	30	political participation	6
8	sexuality	12	31	rural women	6
9	Muslim women	11	32	sexual harassment	6
10	women's empowerment	11	33	transnational feminism	6
11	gender equality	10	34	women workers	6
12	culture	9	35	ecofeminism	5
13	intersectionality	9	36	economic empowerment	5
14	prostitution	9	37	employment	5
15	third-wave feminism	9	38	family	5
16	women's rights	9	39	gender and development	5
17	activism	8	40	health	5
18	gender inequality	8	41	Islamic feminism	5
19	gender-based violence	8	42	neoliberalism	5
20	human rights	8	43	orientalism	5
21	sexual violence	7	44	queer theory	5
22	violence against women	7	45	rape	5
23	women's health	7	46	social media	5

In the next figure (Figure 13) and table (Table 13), we show the analysis results in the form of 'Keyword Clustering' and 'Keywords Distribution', respectively. The average emergence of the keywords that have been analyzed and shown in Figure 14 and Table 14.



**Figure 13: Keywords clustering**

**Table 13. Keywords distribution**

Cluster	Keywords
<b>Red (1)</b>	activism, femininity, feminism, gender, patriarchy, social media, third-wave feminism
<b>Green (2)</b>	domestic violence, human rights, poverty, violence against women, women's empowerment, women's rights
<b>Turquoise (3)</b>	discrimination, education, employment, family, gender equality, political participation
<b>Mustard (4)</b>	culture, gender, and development, gender roles, gender-based violence, Islam, transnational feminism
<b>Purple (5)</b>	gender inequality, higher education, intersectionality, women's health
<b>Blue (6)</b>	economic empowerment, Islamic feminism, Muslim women, orientalism, rural women
<b>Orange (7)</b>	health, rape, sexual harassment, sexual violence, women workers
<b>Brown (8)</b>	prostitution, women
<b>Pink (9)</b>	ecofeminism, sexuality
<b>Black (10)</b>	neoliberalism, queer theory

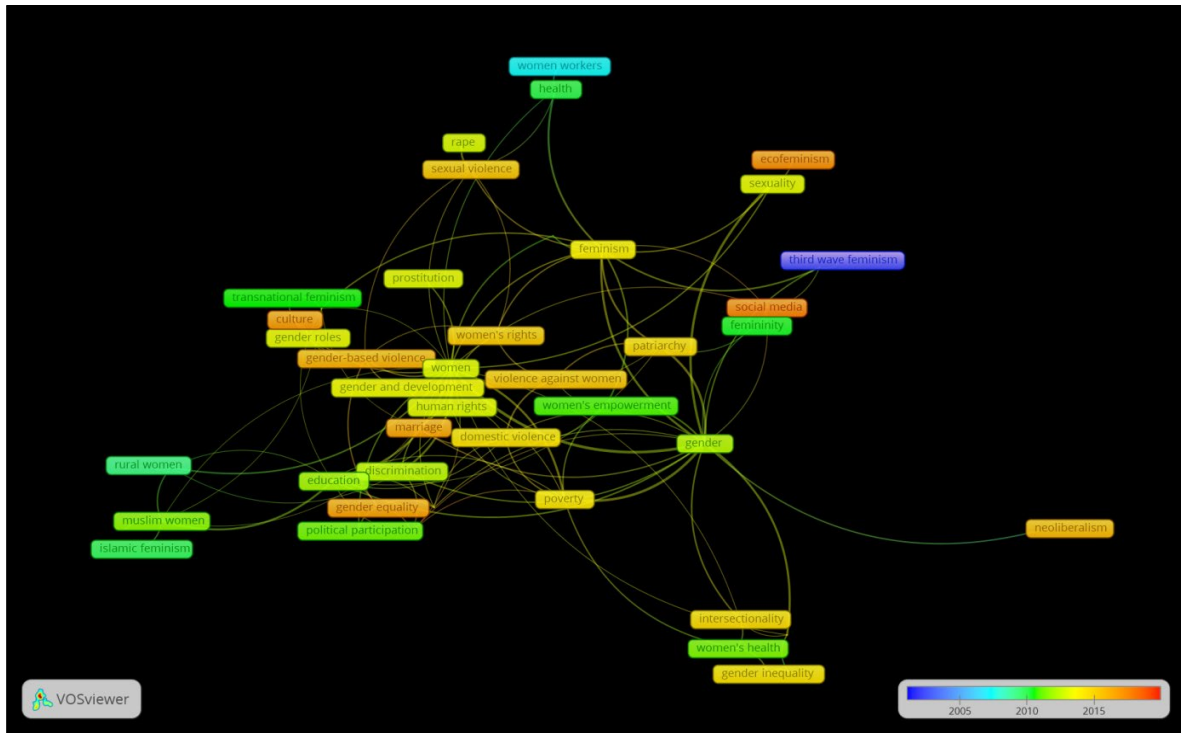


Figure 14: Average keywords emergence

Table 14. Detail of keywords average emergence year

#	Keyword	AEY	#	Keyword	AEY
1	employment	2017.8	24	women	2012.71
2	social media	2017	25	rape	2012.6
3	ecofeminism	2016.6	26	Islam	2012.5
4	culture	2016.33	27	orientalism	2012.4
5	gender equality	2016.1	28	discrimination	2012.17
6	marriage	2016	29	gender	2012.03
7	gender-based violence	2015.62	30	education	2011.81
8	neoliberalism	2015.4	31	activism	2011.62
9	sexual violence	2015	32	Muslim women	2011.45
10	violence against women	2015	33	women's health	2011.29
11	women's rights	2014.89	34	political participation	2011.17
12	patriarchy	2014.44	35	gender roles	2011
13	intersectionality	2014.33	36	sexual harassment	2011
14	domestic violence	2014.15	37	women's empowerment	2010.82
15	gender inequality	2014.12	38	transnational feminism	2010.5
16	poverty	2014	39	femininity	2010.33
17	feminism	2013.69	40	economic empowerment	2010.2
18	higher education	2013.5	41	health	2010
19	gender and development	2013	42	Islamic feminism	2009.8

20	sexuality	2012.83	43	rural women	2009.33
21	family	2012.8	44	queer theory	2009
22	prostitution	2012.78	45	women workers	2007.67
23	human rights	2012.75	46	third-wave feminism	2003

### *Keywords average emergence*

Based on the keywords' dataset of the previous analysis, the present analysis level provides the average emergence of the keywords presented throughout Journal history. In Figure 14, the label colors have been organized to signify the average emergence age of keywords. The keywords that have been studied apply to the entire publication year of the JIWS, i.e., 2002-2019. In this case, color coldness pertains to the average emergence of keywords. For example, warm colors such as yellow, red, and orange signify recently appearing keywords. On the contrary, cold colors like green, blue, and light blue denote keywords that have become dated and old. Following this in figure 14, it can be deduced that the data can be divided into three groups:

1. *light blue and blue: from 2002-2007- old cluster*
2. *yellow and green: from 2008- 2013 - mid cluster*
3. *red and orange: from 2014 to 2019 - current cluster*

In recent years of JIWS' publishing, there have been more contributions concerning employment (Tanwir & Sidebottom, 2019), social media (Kimball, 2019), ecofeminism (France, 2019), culture (Priyatna, 2018), gender equality (Al- Rabadi & Al-Rabadi, 2017) and marriage (Dutta, 2016) along with keywords such as Islamic feminism (Archer, 2007), rural women (Flossy, 2003) and women workers (Koshal et al., 2004). Further, Queer theory (Ronald, 2004) and queer methodology in literature, which covers queer reading of texts or interpreting texts from a queer perspective and an iteration of feminism, termed third-wave feminism (Graff, 2003) that started in the U.S. at the beginning of 1990s, extending into the fourth wave appeared in the 2010s have also been aptly covered in the prior years of the JIWS. This finding highlights the coverage of all pertinent and contemporary concepts and emerging theories by the JIWS in all its stages.

### *Keywords cluster overview*

In the following section, a cluster image is created to recognize how different research streams relate to JIWS. Significantly, a cluster analysis aids in representing the multiple through interrelated streams of investigated knowledge based on each cluster.

Generally, strongly linked together keywords or publications belong to the same cluster. A particular cluster mostly characterizes one stream of research or a given topic based on similar keywords and categorizes each article. Moreover, it can be observed that some themes conform to a specific cluster in proximity to each other. It suggests that although publications are associated objectively with one another, their connections are not strong enough to belong to the same cluster. This is the difficulty in showing the VOS output with the third dimension (Van Eck and Walkman, 2010).

The cluster in red (1) prominently depicts the rise in feminism and patriarchy being challenged. One of the popular papers in the category by Hey raised the question for women as

to what identities and positions they staked out in the world of higher education, which is over competitive and whether the feminist project could be sustained in times of crisis, concluding with the suggestion that women pursuing higher education seek new network connections. This should be done to rejuvenate their capability to ‘speak as feminists wanting social change,’ recognizing the ‘perversity’ of their pleasure (in competitive work, intellectual endeavors, in status, in achieving, etc.) and putting their capabilities and skills to fair civic and public use.

The green cluster (2) prominently highlights violence against women, women’s rights, and women’s empowerment. The most pervasive violation of human rights worldwide is violence against women (VAW). Women’s empowerment can considerably reduce the possibility of violence if they have financial freedom, power of bargaining, and improved self-esteem (Jatfors, 2017). Similarly, in their paper, Sharma & Gupta (2004) corroborated that the problem of violence against women has to be visualized in the broader context and cannot be viewed in isolation from women’s status in society.

The turquoise cluster (3) eradicates gender discrimination by boosting women’s education, employment, and political participation. A well-read paper in this category by Sika (2011) assessed the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab World, making a case study of Egypt emphasizing the extensive role of educating the girl child to eliminate discrimination against women. Significantly, the curricula content is crucial to evaluate the extent to which the ‘quality’ of education strengthens gender equality.

The mustard cluster (4) is related to the area of culture and transnational feminism. A representative paper in this field by Wilson (2007) highlights that transnational feminist projects and alter-globalization movements share horizons, agendas, values, and methods. However, this mutuality is incomplete and how thoroughly feminism is incorporated into the core framing of World Social Forum politics remains less than clear.

The purple cluster (5) takes areas like higher education and women’s health into consideration. One of the most important studies in this category is written by Jinky Leilanie Lu (2009), who is also the highest contributor to the journal. She investigated the connection between labor intensification because of work extensification and intensification and poor health conditions of women in certain manufacturing fields in the Philippines. Her study results indicated that working women faced health problems because of issues with the style of management and supervision, autonomy of a particular job, nature of the task, and exposure to hazards. This category also includes the most cited paper of the journal authored by Brah & Phoenix (2004) on intersectionality.

The blue cluster (6) regards topics related to Muslim women’s orientalism. One of the noteworthy studies by Ozcetin (2009) beautifully captured how religious Muslim women were challenging the binary categorization of ‘backward’, as opposed to the ‘ideal female citizen’ as secular and ‘modern’ and their struggle to break the stereotype of ‘backwardness’ that is put upon them. Instead, they are now seeking to reconstruct an identity neither ‘modern’ nor ‘anti-modern’.

The orange cluster (7) signifies major issues, including rape and sexual harassment. Merkin (2008), in her study, examined how sexual harassment at work affected women. The conclusions recorded by her in her previous study conducted for the U.S. (i.e., overall absence from work, turnover intentions, job dissatisfaction) were tested for three Latin American countries- Argentina, Brazil and Chile and she deciphered that regional contexts are significant while assessing the consequences of sexual harassment in the workplace. Nevertheless, the consequences in the form of absenteeism and turnover intention with financial implications for

the organization were found to be consistent with U.S. findings.

In the brown cluster (8), the keywords are prostitution and women. A total of eleven studies in our sample are found to be based on keyword prostitution. Jha and Madison (2011) explored Nepalese women's experiences who were trafficked into prostitution in India and showed how they face rejection from their family and community after returning from the Indian brothel(s), as they were perceived to be at high risk for HIV infection by them. They recommended the state incorporate effective strategies for rehabilitating these women and reintegrating into their families and communities.

The pink cluster (9) is based on ecofeminism and sexuality. Banforde and Froud (2015) analyzed from an eco-feminist perspective how vulnerable Sri Lankan women have become since the tsunami in 2004. It posited a call for an eco-feminist viewpoint in studying women's vulnerabilities after a natural calamity strike.

The black cluster (10) regards topics related to neoliberalism and queer theory. While neoliberal reforms have been analyzed within the terms of political economy, Gupta (2016) extended existing research to consider how neoliberal subjectivities shape new feminism.

## Summary

Women's studies are a vast field. It cannot be limited to one academic discipline, and hence, it is not easily definable (Brah, 1991; Robinson and Richardson, 1993). Since the 1970s, when the field emerged as a significant research arena, it has expanded the boundaries of feminism, including the evolution of journals that focus explicitly on women's studies. The research studies in the JIWS employ multi-disciplinary and interdisciplinary theories and methods related to women's studies, which enable various issues and concerns pertaining to women to be analyzed from various scholarly viewpoints.

## Limitations of the study

It is crucial to bear in mind that the data for any bibliometric study is not fixed; for the JIWS, it is revised daily in Scopus, which leads to a fluctuation in the number of citations and articles (Fernandez et al., 2019). One of Scopus's limitations is that they only upload articles when authors or journals (even those listed in Scopus, such as JIWS) make a request. Thus, the accuracy of the data retrieved from the Scopus database on a particular day is questionable.

### *The Future of the JIWS and suggestions for improvement with the editor's response*

The authors engaged in detailed discussion with Editor-in-Chief of the JIWS, Professor Diana Fox, on more than two occasions, before and after the in-depth bibliometric exploration and various iterations of this article she contributed. The following are some areas of improvement the study indicates for developing the JIWS and editor's response.

1. We suggest that the JIWS team broaden the scope of topics, including critical epistemologies on issues such as the gender pay gap, flexible work, career patterns, women on boards, and access to leadership positions.

*Editor Response: Noted!*

2. The JIWS team should speed up the review process to offer authors feedback as fast as possible.

*Editor Response: "Please note that we have reduced the turn-around time to 6 weeks rather*

than the previous 3 months. We are a very small operation, and the JIWS is just one of our many responsibilities –it is essentially voluntary. Professor Cami and I receive a one-course release for our work.”

3. JIWS should subscribe to Manuscript for Submission System for a smooth review process and assign DOI for all published articles.

*Editor Response: “We have specifically rejected this process because, as a feminist journal, we wish to enact feminism in our journal process; this means developing relationships as best we can with our authors and team. While this adds to the challenges of the process, we are willing to sustain it in the interests of being a feminist scholar-activist publication.”*

4. The JIWS should engage the editorial team as much as possible for journal development.

*Editor Response: “We have an email list of all JIWS editors, and we exchange emails about JIWS’s policies and publicity and other issues as they arise.”*

5. The JIWS should re-designed the Editorial board by introducing Area Editors / Associate Editors and Regional Editors to attract more diversified papers from developed and developing societies. We think a substantial commitment of the editorial board and the reviewers is key for ensuring a high-quality Journal.

*Editor Response: “This suggestion is appreciated.”*

6. The JIWS should consider high-quality papers, whether it is a qualitative paper, empirical, or even conceptual/ theoretical type of paper from developed and developing societies.

*Editor Response: “We do—we receive many submissions from the global south, but the language barrier is a problem. Recently we created a list of copy editors on the Policy-Submissions page that we refer to authors who have English language challenges.”*

7. The JIWS should consider more Special Issues because special issues play a fundamental role in the sense that they help improve the attractiveness of the journal and achieve a differentiated positioning.

*Editor Response: “I cannot imagine doing any more than I already am undertaking. This last year, we published five; last year 7; the year before 3. So, there is a steady increase already underway.”*

8. The JIWS should target more prestigious journal indexing and ranking, i.e., Web of Science / ESCI, ABS/AJG/ ABDC / ERA. The JIWS should aim to acquire a JCR/Impact factor status for the journal.

*Editor Response: Noted!*

9. It is suggested that the JIWS may launch social media platforms such as Twitter, Facebook page, LinkedIn Page to promote articles and get high visibility and readability.

*Editor Response: “We have an active Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/447055225467504> currently with 961 members and a Twitter account, although I do not use that much. We are not on LinkedIn, although I have listed the JIWS on my LinkedIn Page.”*

10. The JIWS should collaborate with prestigious conferences related to Women Studies for high visibility.

*Editor Response: “I agree I can do more with this. Please note that some of our special issues are regular publications of some conferences.”*

### **Contribution of the Study and future research directions**

The sensitive information on the rising rates of women’s studies, journal characteristics,

and subject areas provided by the present study could be of definite interest to understand the evolution of Women's Studies and the design of modern information retrieval systems. For instance, the study of Journal characteristics helps establish a basis for librarians in making choices about journal subscriptions and cancellations in that area. Additionally, from the often-quoted articles regarding subject areas and document types in the Women's Studies literature, it is feasible to examine the intellectual structure and movements deeply in the field of Women's Studies research. The citation analysis in this study is primarily a metric approach. In comparison, citation context analysis decides the most common usage patterns by studying the passages from where documents are cited and representing the collective state of knowledge in an area. Future studies covering this issue will contribute to great inclusive insights into Women's Studies and its literature.

## Conclusions

Regarding the methodology, the present research delivers a respected representation of a bibliometric approach to the scientific community, although it has the typical limitations of a bibliometric study. The wide array of the papers considered for the study have permitted us to offer a broader perspective on the study field. The authors aim to provide a map of the knowledge base of one of the top 100 journals in SJR ranking in Women's Studies through an analysis of 907 articles published in JIWS, using the SCOPUS database. Firstly, this research has investigated the most relevant papers from the JIWS publication from its inception in 1999 to 2019. From our analysis, on the SCOPUS database, 'Ain't I a woman? Revisiting intersectionality' (Brah & Phoenix, 2004) and 'The Ana Sanctuary: Women's pro-anorexia narratives in cyberspace' (Dias, 2003) resulted in the most cited papers on JIWS.

Moreover, the main contributors and their countries of origin have been examined to get an overall idea of the scope and sphere of influence of the journal. Notably, Jinky Leilanie Lu has been recognized as the most prolific author by virtue of her current work in the field of women's studies. It has been observed that the maximum contributions to JIWS come from the United Kingdom and the United States, followed by India, Canada, and South Africa. It is noteworthy that keeping in mind the journal's reach, an increasing number of contributions have come in from countries with emerging economies.

Concerning theoretical implications, the outcome of cluster analysis proves that the contemporary keywords in women's studies as identified by this bibliometric analysis such as 'employment', 'social media', 'culture' and 'gender equality' signifies the focus of the current studies in the area of women empowerment which will be strengthened by education and employment and that social media has been a gateway for accelerating women empowerment and changing culture. These issues present a clear opportunity for research-related topics for the JIWS.

Contemporary entrepreneurship forms play a vital part in global management research, such as social, ethnic, Indigenous, and women's entrepreneurship (Laudano et al., 2018). However, we also wish to highlight the lack of keywords pertaining to this field, such as 'entrepreneurship', 'start-up' and 'entrepreneurial intention' as entrepreneurship is an essential tool to empower women by increasing family, economic, financial, and social status (Madanetal, 2014). We also recommend that the Journal published a special issue on 'Antecedent factors of women's empowerment' to strengthen its contribution towards contemporary women's empowerment solutions. The JIWS started as an idea that is now flourishing; Besides, JIWS has



helped scholars in various ways both with their careers and in advancing the well-being of marginalized and minoritized groups of women and diverse genders sexualities, as well as educating readers in general. Thus, we will not refrain from giving accolades to JIWS for its achievements.

## **Acknowledgments**

The Indian Council of Social Science supported this study and Research (ICSSR), a research grant (No. IMPRESS/P1083 /489/18-19/ICSSR). The authors would like to thank the editors and anonymous referees for providing helpful comments and suggestions, which improved the paper. We would also like to thank Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM) for the support and growing culture of the research.

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