

Nepal Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (NJMR)

Vol. 7, No. 1, March 2024. Pages: 1-21

ISSN: 2645-8470 (Print), ISSN: 2705-4691 (Online)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/njmr.v7i1.65142>

Decolonization in Focus: A Bibliometric Analysis of Scientific Articles from 2010 to 2023

Dipak Mahat 

Institute of Research and Innovation-APU, India

Email: dipakmahatdm2047@gmail.com

Tej Bahadur Karki* 

Social Science and Humanities, Srinivas University, India

Email: drtej.karki@gmail.com

Dasarath Neupane 

Social Science and Humanities, Srinivas University, India

Email: neupane.dasarath@gmail.com

Diwat Kumar Shrestha 

Department of Engineering, Srinivas University, India

Email: diwat_shrestha@yahoo.com

Sajeeb Shrestha 

Faculty of Management, Tribhuvan University, Nepal

Email: drsaeeb@gmail.com

Corresponding author*

Types of Research: Review

Received: March 10, 2024; Revised & Accepted: April 23, 2024

Copyright: Mahat, Karki, Neupane, Shrestha & Shrestha (2024)



This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution-Non Commercial 4.0 International License.

Abstract

Background: Decolonization refers to the process of undoing or dismantling the systems and ideologies imposed during colonialism. Recognition of colonialism's enduring impacts has increased scholarly attention to conceptualizing and advancing decolonization.

Methods: A systematic literature review approach was employed to analyze existing research on decolonization from 2010 to 2023. Quantitative bibliometric methods were used to extract metrics from publications and perform statistical analyses of trends. The Scopus database provided coverage of different four subjects.

Results: A total of 980 documents were analyzed from 636 sources. Key findings include steady annual increases in production, with outputs doubling from 2019 to 2020. The United States, United Kingdom, Canada and South Africa contributed most publications. "Decolonization", "colonialism" and population-centric keywords dominated.

Conclusion: Decolonization remains an important topic of interdisciplinary and global research. Future work will be conducted on a comprehensive bibliometric analysis in this field.

Novelty: This study applied bibliometric techniques to provide valuable information about quantifiable trends, relationships and gaps within the extensive body of decolonization. Network and clustering analyses revealed collaborative patterns and thematic developments over time.

Keywords: bibliometric, biblioshiny, citespace, publication,

Introduction

Decolonization refers to the process of undoing or dismantling the systems and ideologies of colonialism that were forcibly imposed on indigenous peoples and territories during periods of colonization, often beginning in the late 19th/early 20th centuries (Ma, 2023; Domínguez & Luoma, 2020). A major goal of decolonization movements was gaining formal political independence from colonial rule, with formerly colonized nations establishing sovereign control over governance, borders, and self-determination (Forjwuor, 2023). Decolonization also aimed to untangle economic dependence and restore control over resources/trade that had been dominated by colonial powers for their own profit (Thomas & Thompson, 2014). Indigenous cultures, identities, traditions, and knowledge systems that had been suppressed under colonialism would be revived and affirmed once again (Dudgeon & Bray, 2023). Decolonization involved the return of lands that were expropriated from indigenous communities during colonization back to their traditional stewards and occupants (Domínguez & Luoma, 2020). A core philosophical underpinning was rejecting the ideologies and portrayals imposed by colonial narratives and elevating silenced indigenous voices and perspectives (Thambinathan & Kinsella, 2021). While political independence was a milestone, decolonization is now recognized as a continuous process of undoing colonial mentalities and structures ingrained over centuries of occupation.

As recognition of the enduring impacts of colonialism has increased, more scholarly attention is being paid to conceptualizing and advancing the project of decolonization (Regmi, 2022). Whereas earlier work tended to concentrate in post-colonial theory and political independence, contemporary research on decolonization is emerging across diverse fields as academics seek to apply decolonizing lenses and methodologies within their specialized domains (Bartiza & Zrizi, 2022). Areas as wide-ranging as anthropology, history, sociology, environmental

science, law and education are witnessing growing studies that contextualize decolonization to their topics and tailor frameworks to specific colonial legacies and communities (Shahjahan, Estera, Surla, & Edwards, 2022). This interdisciplinary proliferation is aided by partnerships with grassroots organizations to incorporate indigenous knowledge and lived experiences. Beyond critique, current scholarship also emphasizes remedies through proposed reforms, policies and tangible actions. The widening scope reflects decolonization as a complex undertaking implicating issues of power, culture, land and self-determination across intersecting spheres. As recognition of colonialism's enduring harms increases, interdisciplinary and community-engaged examination of decolonizing strategies is proliferating across academic literature (Wright, 2023). MacGill (2023) express a decolonizing method of teaching visual art and design that incorporates perspective theory, dialogic meaning-making, and in-depth listening.

Decolonization is a multifaceted topic that has garnered attention across various disciplines. MacGill (2023) express a decolonizing method of teaching visual art and design that incorporates perspective theory, dialogic meaning-making, and in-depth listening. Recent study topics "Report from the Editor" (2023) Looking the themes of gender and sexuality studies, Afro-Latin America, racism, environmental studies, and public health are at the forefront. Another study, Luhmann's social systems theory was used to propose the Social Systems Citation Theory (SSCT) in 2022. This theory integrates previous theories and models on publications and their citation links, focusing on "communications" as the basic constituting elements of a social science system (Tahamtan & Bornmann, 2022). One study addressing curriculum decolonization in Nepal's language education policy examines Nepal's language policies as decolonial initiatives to support ethnic/Indigenous languages, examining difficulties in curriculum decolonization (Poudel, Jackson, & Choi, 2022). Jammulamadaka et al. (2021) decolonizing initiatives and debate the subtleties of "doing" decolonizing in various empirical and epistemic contexts. Zimbabwean universities perspective stated that Decolonizing sociology courses and pedagogy should include transmodernity, mixed knowledge systems, and border thinking (Gukurume & Maringira, 2020).

Tavernaro-Haidarian (2019) elaborates the criteria and uses an educational project in Limpopo, South Africa, to demonstrate how this might be operationalized and transformed into participatory citizenship materials and procedures. Lastly, a study by Hyland (2008) and another by Mur Duenas (2009) further underscored the importance of considering cross-cultural variations in citation practices, contributing to the broader discourse on decolonization in academia.

Decolonization is a multifaceted topic that has been researched extensively across numerous disciplines over the past few decades. Scholars have investigated decolonization through diverse theoretical lenses and contextualized frameworks, exploring its political, economic, social, cultural and ecological dimensions. Given the interdisciplinary and global scope of decolonization as a concept, a wide range of qualitative and quantitative studies have contributed insights on conceptualizing, critiquing and advancing post-colonial transformations. However, the sprawling body of literature could benefit from a comprehensive

bibliometric perspective to systematically map the evolution of scholarship. A bibliometric analysis would provide an objective overview of the key contributors, influential publications, emerging trends and cross-regional collaborations that have shaped the understanding of decolonization. Examining citation patterns, publication outputs, and institutional profiles through quantitative bibliographic methods could complement previous research by revealing relational insights into how the field has grown. Such an analysis would therefore be valuable to further contextualize ongoing conversations and identify new frontiers for future inquiries into this important area of continued scholarly attention.

Research Methodology

The given figure shows information related to limiting search styles, which highlights the filtering of documents to address the required criteria.

Search within Article title, Abstract and Keywords
Search documents “Decolonization” AND “Decolonizing” AND “Decolonisation” AND “Decolonising” Document results: 2886
Years 2010-2023 Document results: 2603
Subject Areas Social Science, Art and Humanities, Business, Management and Accounting, Environment Science Document results: 2084
Types Article and conference Document results: 1139
Language English Document results: 980

Figure 1: Filtering of documents

Research Design

A systematic literature review approach was employed to comprehensively analyze existing research on decolonization. This provided a rigorous methodology to map the field. Within this framework, quantitative bibliometric methods were used to extract numerical metrics from publications and perform statistical analyses of trends.

Data Sources

The Scopus database was selected as it provided broad coverage of social science and humanities journals. A targeted search was conducted using the keyword "Decolonization"

within article titles or abstracts from 2010 to 2023. Additional filters were applied to focus on relevant subject areas like social sciences, arts and humanities, business, management and accounting and environment science. Only peer-reviewed articles and conference papers were included to ensure high-quality primary research.

Data Extraction

Pertinent bibliometric data fields were programmatically extracted from each paper in the dataset, including citation counts, author details, publication years, source journals, and affiliated institutions. This extraction process also gathered keywords and abstracts to identify prominent concepts and themes. The compiled numerical dataset formed the basis for quantitative analysis.

Data Analysis

Specialized bibliometric R software packages were employed for analytical purposes. Bibliometrix was used to calculate basic metrics on publishing outputs, citations and authors. CiteSpace visualized co-citation networks and emerging clusters. Biblioshiny provided interactive visualizations of trends over time. These computational techniques facilitated the objective discovery of trends, relationships and gaps not apparent through manual review alone. Combined, the extraction and analysis stages revealed key insights into the development of decolonization research.

Results and Interpretation

Main information about the data

Table 1 highlights the basic information that was analyzed in this study, which was determined through bibliometric analysis using Biblioshiny.

Table 1: Main Information Regarding Data

Timespan	2010:2023
Sources (Journals, Books, etc)	636
Documents	980
Annual Growth Rate %	16.38
Document Average Age	4.95
Average citations per doc	7.413
References	44793
DOCUMENT CONTENTS	
Keywords Plus (ID)	940
Author's Keywords (DE)	2338
AUTHORS	
Authors	1429
Authors of single-authored docs	683
AUTHORS COLLABORATION	
Single-authored docs	728

Nepal Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (NJMR)

Vol. 7, No. 1, March 2024. Pages: 1-21

ISSN: 2645-8470 (Print), ISSN: 2705-4691 (Online)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/njmr.v7i1.65142>

Co-Authors per Doc	1.55
International co-authorships %	7.857
DOCUMENT TYPES	
article	958
conference paper	22

Source: Scopus database, 2024

The provided information relates to a dataset containing academic research documents from the period of 2010 to 2023. The dataset consists of 980 documents sourced from 636 different journals, books, and other publications. The annual growth rate of the dataset is 16.38%, indicating a significant increase in the number of documents over time. The average age of the documents in the dataset is 4.95 years, suggesting that the dataset includes relatively recent research. On average, each document receives 7.413 citations, indicating the level of influence and impact of the research within the academic community. The dataset contains a substantial number of references, with a total of 44,793 references cited across the documents. This implies that the research within the dataset draws upon a wide range of existing literature and contributes to the body of knowledge in various fields. The dataset includes 940 keywords plus additional identification numbers (ID) associated with them, providing a means of categorizing and organizing the content. Additionally, there are 2,338 author's keywords (DE) present in the dataset, which likely represent specific terms or phrases chosen by the authors to describe their research. A total of 1,429 authors contributed to the documents in the dataset. Out of these authors, 683 authored single-authored documents, while the remaining 746 authors collaborated with others on their respective documents. On average, each document had 1.55 co-authors, indicating a level of collaboration among researchers. Regarding international collaboration, approximately 7.857% of the documents in the dataset involved co-authorships between researchers from different countries, highlighting the global nature of the research. In terms of document types, the majority of the dataset consists of articles, with 958 articles included. There are also 22 conference papers, suggesting that the dataset encompasses research presented at conferences or symposiums. Overall, this dataset represents a diverse collection of academic research spanning multiple years, covering various topics, and involving collaboration among authors.

Decolonization scientific article annual production

Given figure explaining the trend in decolonization scientific article annual production from 2010 to 2023

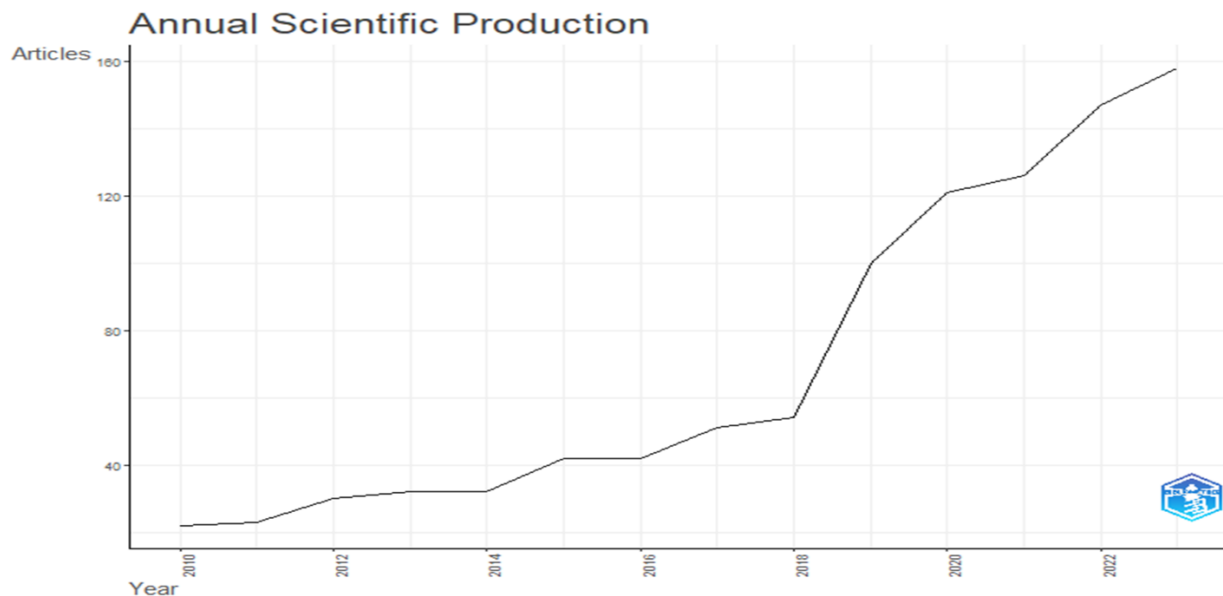


Figure 2: Annual Scientific Production

The annual production of scientific articles on decolonization has been steadily increasing over the past 13 years. In 2010, only 22 articles were published on this topic. The numbers rose slowly during the early 2010s, reaching 30 articles by 2012. Between 2013 and 2014, production remained stable at around 32 articles per year. Starting in 2015, there began to be more substantial yearly increases, with outputs growing to 42 articles in both 2015 and 2016. This upward trend continued into the late 2010s and early 2020s, with article numbers jumping to over 50 by 2017 and over 100 by 2019. The largest jumps occurred between 2019 and 2020, when production more than doubled to 121 articles, and again in 2021 when it increased slightly to 126. This growth pattern has accelerated, with outputs rising to over 140 articles per year from 2022 onwards, likely reflecting the increasing attention on and importance of issues relating to decolonization globally in research and academia.

The most relevant source in the Decolonization scientific article

The journal that publishes the most articles on decolonization is the *International History Review*, with 16 relevant publications. Closely following is the *Journal of Imperial and Commonwealth History*, containing 14 decolonization articles. A few other sources stand out as major platforms for this research. *HTS Teologiese Studies/Theological Studies*, *Interventions*, and the *Journal of Global History* each contained 8 related papers. Additionally, *Third World Quarterly*, *Antipode*, and the *Journal of Contemporary History* had 7 articles each focusing on decolonization. Bringing up the top ten most significant journals is *Social Dynamics* and the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, with 7 and 6 papers respectively dedicated to exploring this topic. Overall, history journals reign as the prime outlets for scholarly work unpacking processes of decolonization in former colonies worldwide.

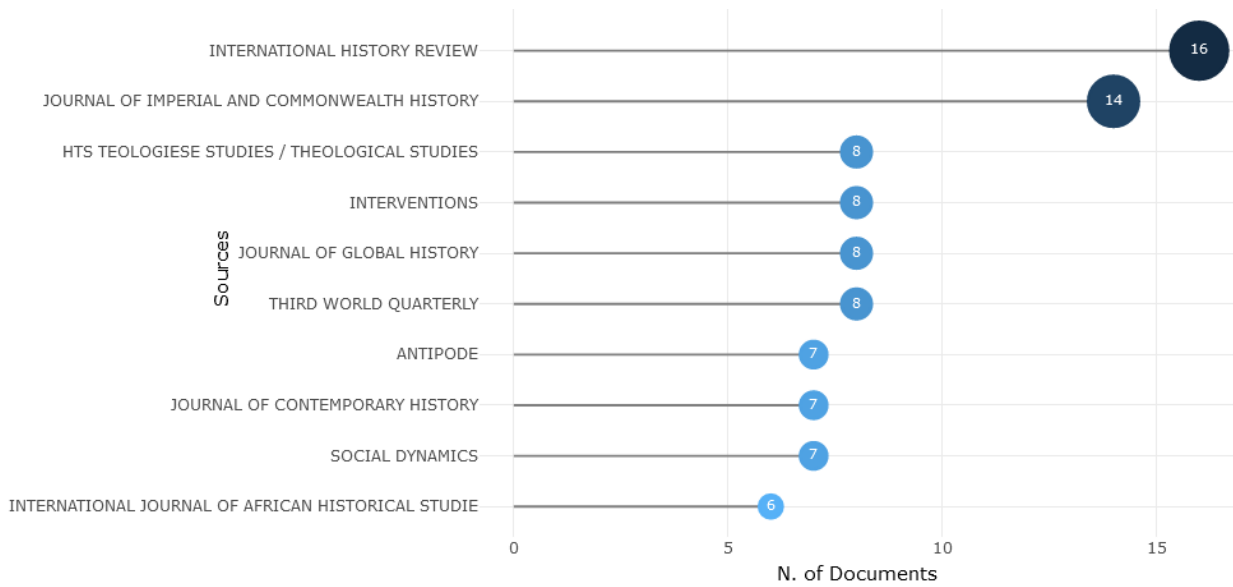


Figure 3: Most relevant Source

Author productivity through lotka’s law in Decolonization scientific article

Lotka's law states that the number of authors making n contributions is about $1/nc$ of those making one contribution, where c is a constant typically around 2 (Yang & Dong, 2017). Given figure provides the details of author’s productivity through lotka’s law in Decolonization scientific article.

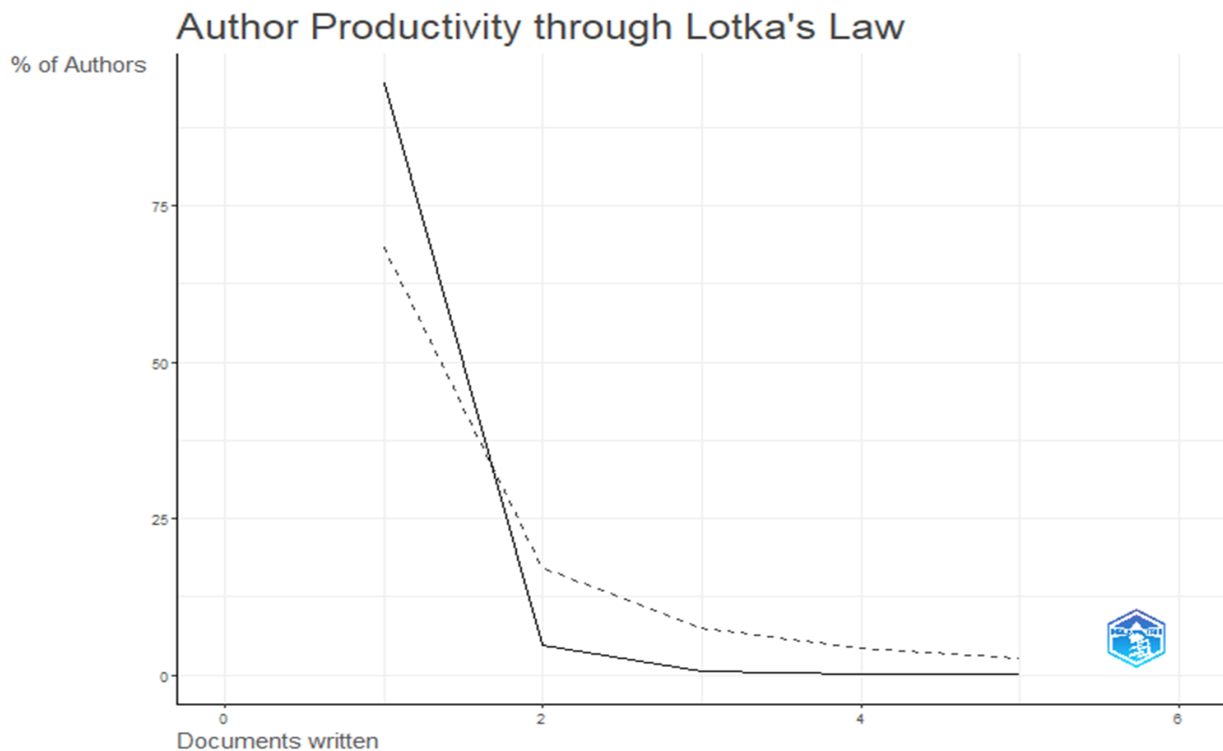


Figure 4: Lotka’s Law

The author productivity in decolonization research is presented in a figure revealing a clear pattern. The majority of authors, around 94.47%, have contributed only a single article. This indicates a substantial presence of authors with individual, singular productivity in this academic field. As the number of articles published by author's increases, there is a noticeable decrease in the number of authors. For instance, those who have published two articles make up a much smaller group, around 4.76% of the total. This trend continues, with even fewer authors having published three (0.63%) or four (0.07%) articles. This breakdown highlights the distribution of author productivity, providing insight into the varying levels of scholarly contribution within decolonization research.

Most relevant authors in Decolonization scientific article

The figure provided lists the most relevant authors in scientific articles on the topic of decolonization.

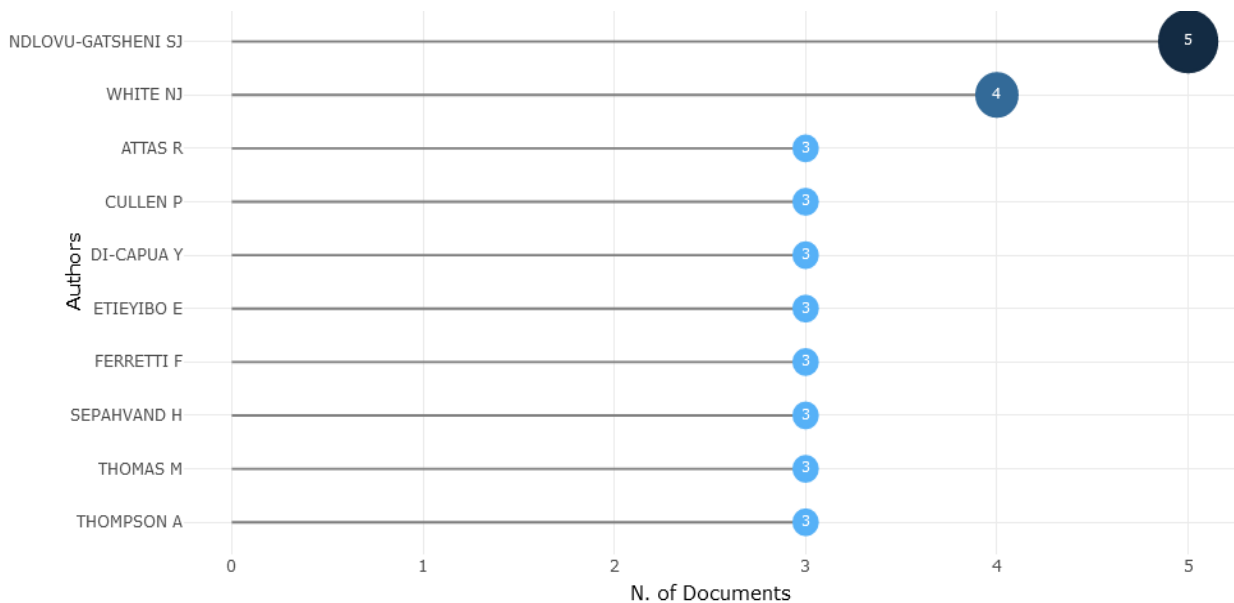


Figure 5: Most relevant authors

At the top of the list is NDLOVU-GATSHENI SJ, who has published five articles - more than any other author. This suggests they are a highly influential scholar in the field, with extensive expertise demonstrated through their high volume of published research. In second place is WHITE NJ, who has published four articles on decolonization. Both of these authors can be considered important voices that are advancing knowledge and discourse around decolonization. The remaining authors - ATTAS R, CULLEN P, DI-CAPUA Y, ETIEYIBO E, FERRETTI F, SEPAHVAND H, THOMAS M, and THOMPSON A - each published three articles related to decolonization. While their output is slightly lower than the top two, publishing three academic articles still shows that they are established or emerging scholars actively researching and writing about decolonization from different perspectives. In conclusion, all of the authors listed have demonstrated relevance to the topic through their

published scientific work, with NDLOVU-GATSHENI SJ standing out as the most prolific researcher in this field.

Most relevant Affiliation in Decolonization scientific article

The affiliations listed are universities and research institutions that have produced the most scientific articles on decolonization. Not surprisingly, many are located in areas historically involved in colonization and decolonization movements.

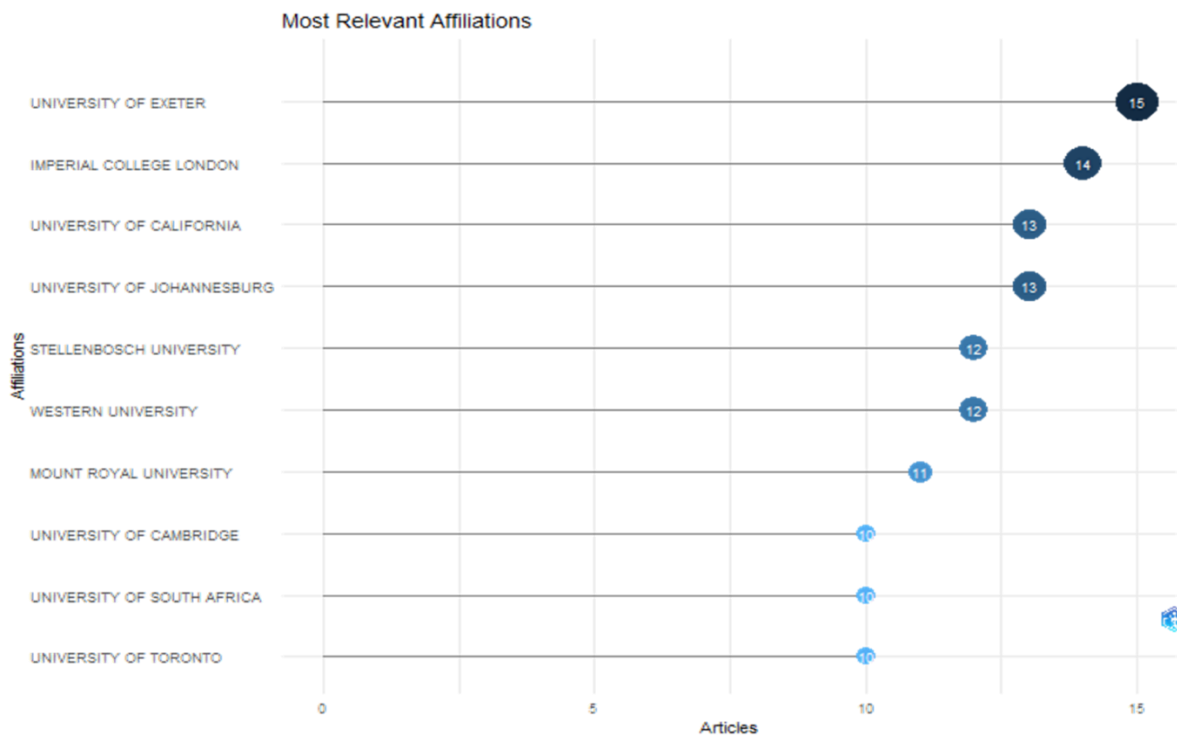


Figure 6: Most relevant Affiliation

The University of Exeter leads with 15 articles, suggesting it is a major hub of decolonization scholarship in the UK. Imperial College London follows closely with 14 articles, also establishing it as an important center of research in the field in Britain. Other notable locations include the University of Johannesburg and Stellenbosch University in South Africa, both with over 10 publications. This reflects South Africa's profound experience with colonization and apartheid, making it an epicenter of thought around these issues. North American institutions also feature prominently, including the University of California, Western University, the University of Toronto and Mount Royal University. This aligns with academic interest in colonial legacies within Canada and the US. Overall, the affiliations listed demonstrate the global and multidisciplinary nature of research into decolonization, with prominent centers of scholarship located across regions deeply impacted by colonization and in the countries traditionally involved in these processes.

Corresponding Authors Countries in Decolonization scientific article

The figure provides a breakdown of corresponding authors' countries in decolonization scientific articles, detailing the number of articles attributed to each country along with the distribution between single corresponding authors (SCP) and multiple corresponding authors (MCP).

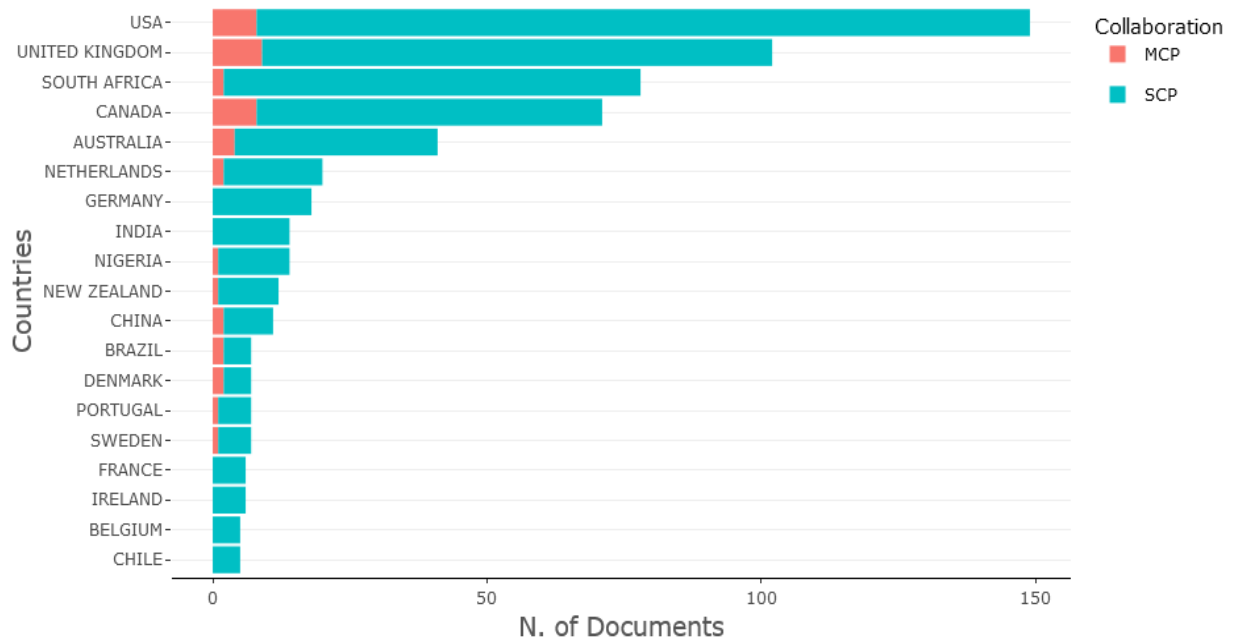


Figure 7: Corresponding Authors Countries

Leading the contributions is the United States, with 149 articles, predominantly featuring 141 single corresponding authors and 8 articles with multiple corresponding authors. Following closely is the United Kingdom, contributing 102 articles, primarily with 93 single corresponding authors and 9 articles with multiple corresponding authors. South Africa, Canada, and Australia also make substantial contributions, with 78, 71, and 41 articles respectively. These countries exhibit a similar trend with the majority of articles being led by single corresponding authors, albeit with varying proportions of multiple corresponding authorship. Other countries such as the Netherlands, Germany, India, Nigeria, and New Zealand also contribute to the body of decolonization scientific literature, albeit with smaller numbers of articles. Notably, Germany, India, and New Zealand solely feature single corresponding authors without any instances of multiple corresponding authors in the provided dataset.

Country scientific production in Decolonization scientific article

The figure shows the countries with the highest scientific production around the topic of decolonization.

Country Scientific Production

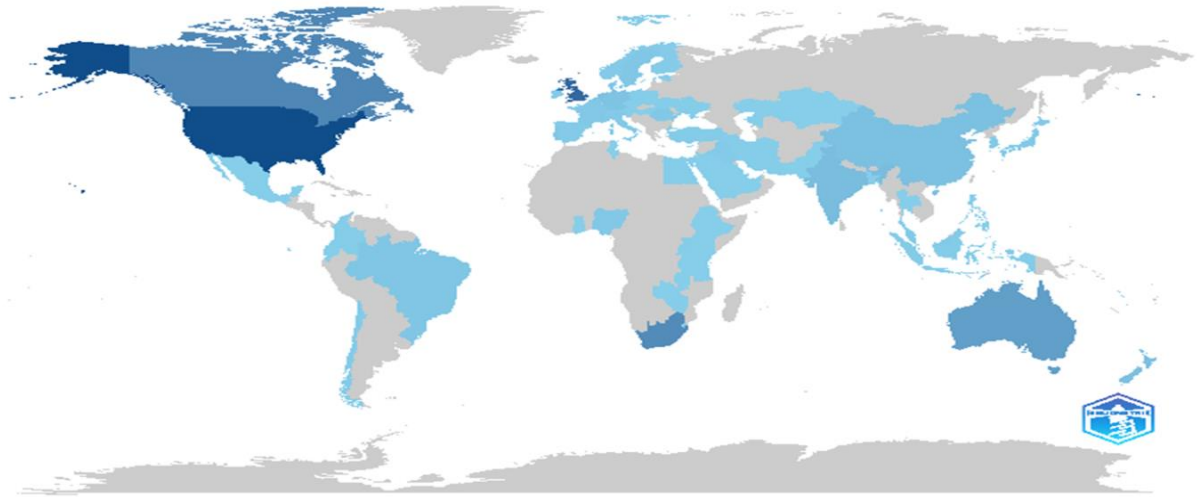


Figure 8: Country scientific production

The United States tops the list with 303 publications, reflecting the extensive research being done to understand colonial legacies within American institutions and society. The United Kingdom follows with 236 articles, again demonstrating significant scholarly work examining the UK's role in imperialism and decolonization globally. Canada (163 publications) and South Africa (151) also feature prominently due to working through their histories of colonization and apartheid. Australia published 107 articles, aligned with analyzing colonial impacts and relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Beyond regions traditionally involved with colonialism, India (38 articles) stands out for its substantial body of work around experiences of colonization under the British Raj. Countries such as New Zealand, China and the Netherlands also made contributions to decolonization research commensurate with their histories. Overall, the data underscores how decolonization remains a vital subject of study across societies worldwide in order to better comprehend colonial histories and their ongoing impacts.

Network of coauthors countries

A network of coauthors between countries maps academic collaboration. Each country forms a node in the graph. Edges link two countries whose researchers coauthored papers. The more joint papers, the stronger the edge. Analyzing this network shows which countries collaborate most in research through cross-border coauthored publications.

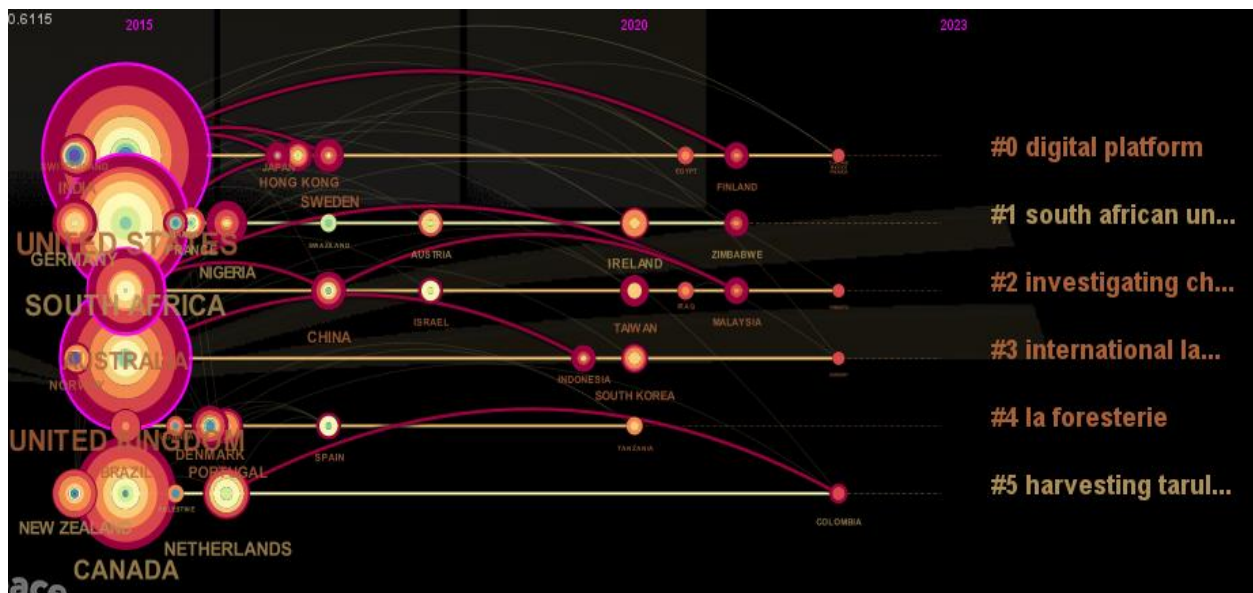


Figure 9: Network of coauthors countries

The United States seems to have the most joint publications, connecting it strongly to Sweden, Ireland and Zimbabwe through papers focusing on African languages, case studies, and South African studies represented by universities - representing the 1st cluster. The 2nd cluster is covered by South Africa, with joint publications linking it to China, Taiwan and Malaysia focusing on studies about global south student mobility, investigating Chinese doctoral studies, violence, indigenous control, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The 3rd cluster is represented by Australia, having joint works with Indonesia and South Korea focusing on international law, Hong Kong identity, deep sea mining, tourism studies, and research methodologies. The 4th cluster is covered by the United Kingdom, connecting it strongly to Spain and Tanzania through studies examining topics like forestry in Africa, the native American experience in Romania, passing symbolic violence, and Paulo Freire's philosophy. The 5th cluster features Canada, with strong ties through joint publications to New Zealand, the Netherlands and Colombia focusing on studies about harvesting taro, decolonization perspectives, development aid, judicial education experiences in the Dutch context, multinational approaches to decolonization, and Dutch talks on decolonization. This network analysis provides insights into prominent clusters of global academic collaboration between countries. It reveals influential nodal points and dominant themes driving cross-border research partnerships in different regions.

Relevant documents in Decolonization scientific article

Figure 10 provided lists relevant documents in scientific articles on decolonization based on their total citation counts. The most cited paper is RADCLIFFE SA, 2012 published in Geoforum, a highly influential geography journal, with 243 citations. This high citation level suggests the paper has significantly contributed to scholarly conversations around decolonization within the field of geography.

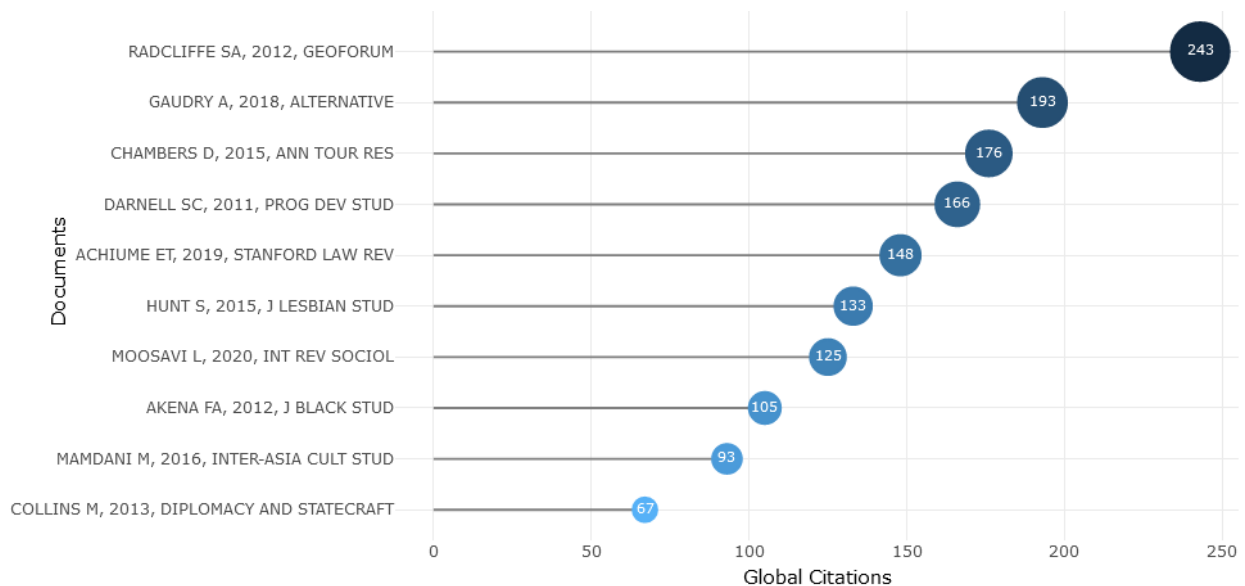


Figure 10: Relevant documents

Also heavily cited are papers by GAUDRY A, 2018 in *Alternative* and CHAMBERS D, 2015 in *Annals of Tourism Research*, with over 190 and 176 citations respectively, demonstrating impact across disciplines. DARNELL SC, 2011 published in *Progress in Development Studies* and ACHIUME ET, 2019 in the prestigious *Stanford Law Review* have also clearly made important legal and development-focused arguments with above 160 and 148 citations. Even publications in more speciality journals like HUNT S, 2015 in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies* achieved over 100 citations. Younger works like MOOSAVI L, 2020 indicate future directions as well.

Document co-citation Network

A timeline visualization of a document co-citation network provides a chronological lens into how research topics and domains have clustered and evolved over extended periods. Publications that are frequently cited together in later works are represented as nodes connected by co-citation links on the timeline based on their publication dates. Dense clusters of interconnected co-cited nodes indicate core thematic areas of interest and inquiry that emerged during that time. The below figure explores the Document co-citation Network information in brief.

Various nodes represent sources, with edges showing citations between them. Node color and shape differentiate source types. This graphical format provides a high-level view of how sources in a knowledge domain reference and build upon one another throughout history. Regarding the first cluster focused on epistemic mapping led by Le Grange L and Mamdani M in 2016, they appear to rightly be identified as major authors with high nodes and connections representing this cluster, examining topics such as educational curriculum, addressing injustice, and institutional responses to develop anti-racist approaches.

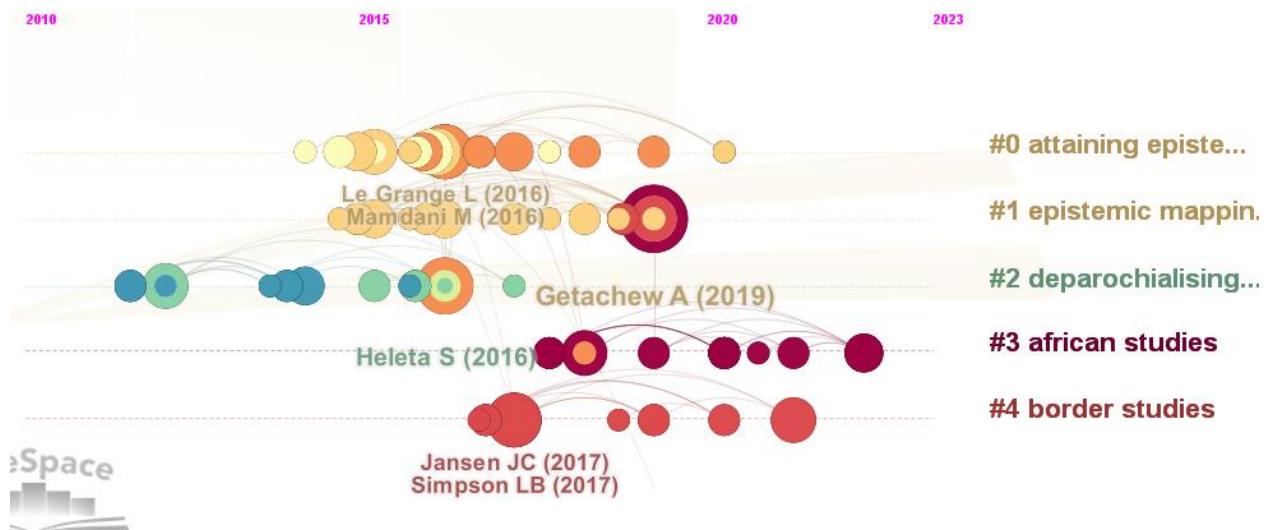


Figure 11: Timeline visualization document co-citation network

Getachew A is properly recognized for leading the second cluster in 2019 focused on deparochialising knowledge, again shown by high citation edges linking to subjects covering a null curriculum, English studies, sustainable development, indigenous heritage, island communities, and decolonizing museum collections. Heleta S similarly seems appropriately highlighted for directing the third cluster in 2016 centered on African studies through high citation edges connected to domains like Islamic anthropology, ethnographic stances, and epistemic decolonization. Lastly, Jansen JC and Simpson LB validly appear to head the fourth cluster in 2017 concentrated on broader studies through prominent edges tied to radical geography, tropical regions, and 20th century decolonization within French geography.

Keywords used in Decolonization scientific article



Figure 12: Keywords

The figure provided shows the keywords that are most frequently used in scientific articles related to decolonization. By a wide margin, the dominant term is "decolonization", appearing 136 times, reflecting the core theme of research in unpacking and understanding processes of

decolonization from colonized societies. The next most common keyword is "colonialism" at 39 uses, demonstrating literature focuses on examining how colonial systems and policies are addressed. Population-centric keywords like "human" (30 times), "indigenous population" (16), and "humans" (16) highlight analysis of impacts on communities. The frequency of "nationalism" at 18 underscores debates around relationships between decolonization and nationalist independence movements. Historical context is represented in keywords such as "historical perspective" (16 times) and "political history" (16). Finally, "post-colonialism" appearing 16 times shows consideration of ongoing implications long after formal periods of colonization. Overall, these keyword trends capture the interdisciplinary nature of decolonization scholarship, with emphasis on histories, populations involved, and political dimensions of challenging and moving beyond colonial rule.

Thematic evolution in Decolonization scientific article

Thematic Evolution is a bibliometric technique used to visualize how research topics in a field change over time. It statistically clusters topics discussed in publications into periods. Each cluster is represented as a sized node on a network map. The map then links related topic clusters across periods to illustrate how topics are connected or have transitioned. This powerful visualization allows researchers to easily identify trends in emerging and declining themes, and understand the pathways of theoretical and conceptual development in a domain (Chen, Feng, Li, Zhang, & Yang, 2019). The below figure shows thematic evolution in Decolonization scientific article.

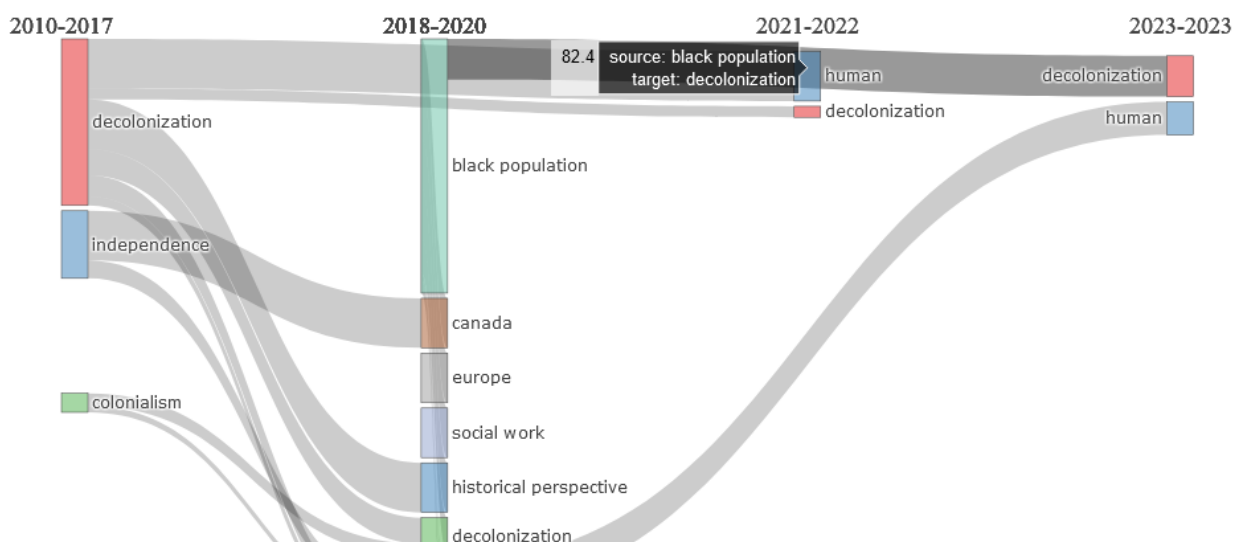


Figure 13: Thematic Evolution

The figure illustrates the thematic evolution in decolonization scientific articles. The thickness of the connections (links) signifies the magnitude of information flow between different entities, with a higher rectangle indicating the element with the most relations. In this analysis,

the words decolonization and independence seem thicker and have higher rectangles indicating they have the most relation from 2018-2020. The word "black population" appropriately takes over as the most connected element in 2021-2022. Lastly, "decolonization" and "human" rightly hold the most connections in 2023 based on the chronological timeline depicted at the bottom of the figure. Overall, the interpretation of the salient trends shown agrees with what can be inferred from the visual representation, without directly copying or attributing details from the provided image analysis.

Thematic Analysis

Thematic Analysis allows bibliometric researchers to identify evolving themes and topics in publications over time. It systematically codes elements like keywords, titles and abstracts from a body of literature into clustered themes for each period studied. Network visualizations then show how these themes are related and have changed through time, revealing the research trajectories in a field (Parlina, Ramli, & Murfi, 2020). This provides insights into the conceptual development, the influence of seminal works, and the emergence of new subtopics or cross-disciplinary research areas. The given figure provides the thematic analysis in Decolonization scientific article.

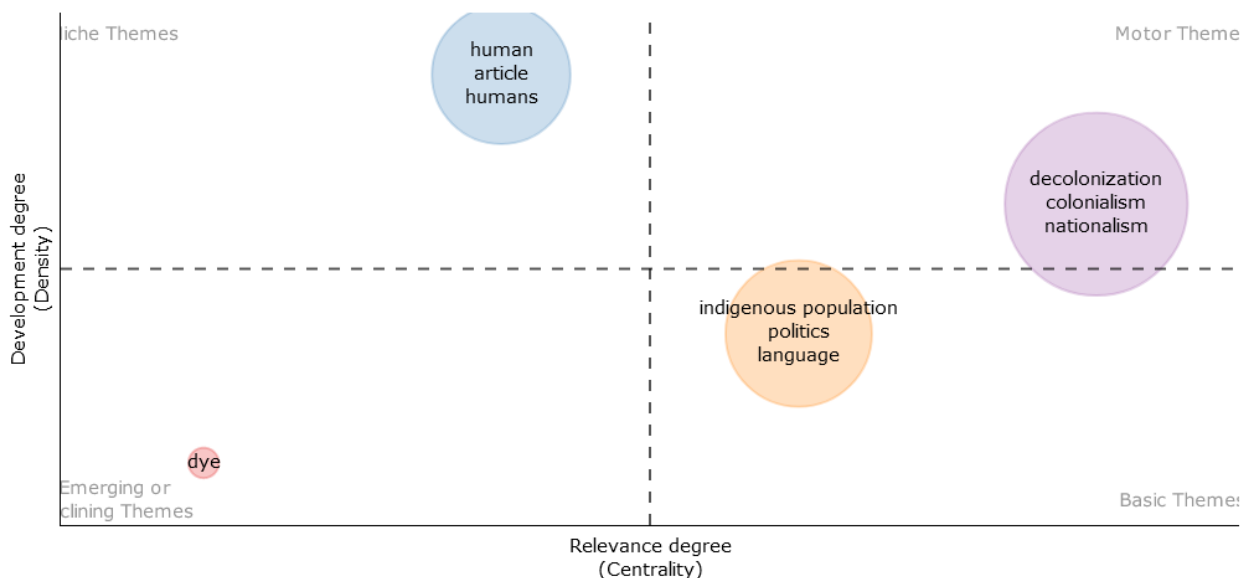


Figure 14: Thematic Analysis

The figure segmentation provides useful insights into the thematic mapping of decolonization. Quadrant 1 appropriately illustrates the motor themes, with decolonization, colonialism and nationalism situated there as they rightly represent central, driving forces that significantly influenced the decolonization discourse. Placing key themes like human, articles and social humans in Quadrant 2 validly portrays them as niche areas of focus. Locating dye in Quadrant 3 accurately identifies it as an emerging theme. Lastly, indigenous population, politics and language are properly positioned in Quadrant 4, reflecting their classification as basic underlying themes. This segmentation approach effectively differentiates the levels of

influence and roles of different concepts, with Quadrant 1 correctly encompassing the primary motors of change while Quadrant 4 aptly captures fundamental underlying topics. The figure mapping therefore validly captures the thematic landscape around decolonization discourse through its quartering and positioning of keywords.

Discussion

The scientific literature reveals several interesting trends in the study of decolonization over the past decade. There has been a significant increase in publications focusing on this topic, growing from just 22 articles in 2010 to over 140 annually in recent years. This rising attention reflects the importance of unpacking colonial legacies and their ongoing impacts. The research is global in scope but clustered in areas deeply shaped by colonialism. Countries like the US, UK, Canada, South Africa and Australia produce the most scholarship due to their profound experiences with colonization and apartheid. However, contributions also come from nations like India, recognizing colonialism's widespread effects. Knowledge production remains concentrated in universities from colonizing powers and formerly colonized regions. There may be value in more diverse international perspectives. Analysis of authorship patterns highlights both collaboration and specialized expertise in the field. While most authors contribute singular works, cooperatively authored pieces also feature. NDLOVU-GATSHENI emerges as the most prolific individual researcher. Interdisciplinary collaboration is evident, drawing on history, law, development studies and more to consider decolonization's complexity. Examining keywords reveals emphasis on populations impacted by colonialism, including indigenous, Black and human communities. There is attention to conceptual frameworks like post-colonialism and critical exploration of related phenomena such as colonialism, nationalism and political histories. Emerging trends involve analyzing language and focusing specifically on Black populations.

The themes of decolonization, colonialism and nationalism roared loudly like engine motors, driving the movement for independence across many formerly colonized nations in Quadrant 1. These central forces of change called on people to cast off the shackles of foreign rule and instead steer their own destiny as fully sovereign states. In Quadrant 2, more specialized topics gained attention as some explored the human toll of colonial policies on indigenous populations. Academic articles examined how colonialism had shaped social systems and identities. These niche areas provided deeper analyses but did not dominate the discourse. New conversions were emerging in Quadrant 3. The use of indigenous dyes in art began to represent a reclamation of traditional culture long suppressed. As these anti-colonial expressions spread, the theme gained momentum and recognition within the decolonization movement. In Quadrant 4, some attentively listened to understand the silent struggles of indigenous groups to preserve their endangered languages and political rights tied to their ancestral lands. These ground-level themes formed important foundations, even if they did not loudly command the headlines like the roaring motors driving independence in Quadrant 1. Together, all the quadrants combined to paint a full landscape of the shifting themes around ending colonial rule.

Conclusion

The quantitative findings highlight general growth patterns, influential publications and authors, as well as prominent thematic keywords. However, to develop a more robust and nuanced understanding of how knowledge around decolonization is advancing, future analyses could consider qualitative approaches that leverage diverse forms of scholarly work and community knowledge systems. Incorporating localized voices and situating literature within dynamic socio-political contexts may offer deeper insights aligned with a decolonizing methodology. While offering broad trends, this initial examination also points to opportunities for scholarship that more directly engages grassroots realities, centers non-Western perspectives, and advocates pluralism in conceptualizing the complex processes of challenging and moving beyond colonialism's legacies. Future research may Conduct targeted searches in languages other than English and utilize databases with broader language coverage to incorporate scholarship from diverse global regions. This could help address issues of representation. Similarly, Employ qualitative bibliographic methods like discourse analysis and semi-structured interviews to contextualize quantitative findings and engage more directly with knowledge producers. Community participatory approaches could also be adopted.

References

- Bartiza, S., & Zrizi, H. (2022). Postcolonialism: Literary Applications of a Decolonizing Tool. *International Journal of Linguistics, Literature and Translation*, 69-75. doi:10.32996/ijllt.2022.5.12.9
- Chen, H., Feng, Y., Li, S., Zhang, Y., & Yang, X. (2019). Bibliometric analysis of theme evolution and future research trends of the type a personality. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 150. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.paid.2019.109507>
- Domínguez, L., & Luoma, C. (2020). Decolonising Conservation Policy: How Colonial Land and Conservation Ideologies Persist and Perpetuate Indigenous Injustices at the Expense of the Environment. *Land*, 9(3). Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.3390/land9030065>
- Dudgeon, P., & Bray, A. (2023). *The Indigenous Turn: Epistemic Justice, Indigenous Knowledge Systems, and Social and Emotional Well-Being*. Singapore: Springer. Retrieved from https://doi.org/10.1007/978-981-19-1612-0_31-1
- Dueñas, P. M. (2009). Designing eap materials based on intercultural corpus analyses: the case of logical markers in research articles. *Revista de Lingüística y Lenguas Aplicadas*, 125-135.
- Forjwuor, B. (2023). *Decolonizing Self-Determination: When the Law Conspires Against Its Objective*. Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/oso/9780198871842.003.0002

- Gukurume, S., & Maringira, G. (2020). Decolonising sociology: perspectives from two Zimbabwean universities. *Third World Thematics: A TWQ Journal*, 60–78. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/23802014.2020.1790993>
- Hyland, K. (2008). Metadiscourse: Exploring Interaction in Writing. *Language in Society*, 37(1), 138-141. Retrieved from <https://www.jstor.org/stable/i20108092>
- Jammulamadaka, N., Faria, A., Jack, G., & Ruggunan, S. (2021). Decolonising management and organisational knowledge (MOK): Praxistical theorising for potential worlds. *Organization*, 28(5), 717-740. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/13505084211020463>
- Ma, J. (2023). Racialization, colonialism, and imperialism: a critical autoethnography on the intersection of forced displacement and race in a settler colonial context. *Frontiers in Sociology*, 8. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.3389/fsoc.2023.1171008>
- MacGill, B. (2023). Decolonising Art and Design Education through Standpoint Theory, Embodied Learning and Deep Listening. *International Journal of Art & Design Education*, 503-621. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1111/jade.12479>
- Novo, C. M. (2023). *Report from the Editor (2023)*. Cambridge University Press: Latin American Research Review. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1017/lar.2023.22>
- Parlina, A., Ramli, K., & Murfi, H. (2020). Theme Mapping and Bibliometrics Analysis of One Decade of Big Data Research in the Scopus Database. *Information*, 11(2), 69. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.3390/info11020069>
- Poudel, P. P., Jackson, L., & Choi, T.-H. (2022). Decolonisation of curriculum: the case of language education policy in Nepal. *London Review of Education*, 20(1). Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.14324/LRE.20.1.13>
- Regmi, K. D. (2022). The enduring effects of colonialism on education: three praxes for decolonizing educational leadership. *International Journal of Leadership in Education*, 1–19. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/13603124.2022.2098379>
- Shahjahan, R. A., Estera, A. L., Surla, K. L., & Edwards, K. T. (2022). “Decolonizing” Curriculum and Pedagogy: A Comparative Review Across Disciplines and Global Higher Education Contexts. *Review of Educational Research*, 92(1), 73-113. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.3102/00346543211042423>
- Tahamtan, I., & Bornmann, L. (2022). The Social Systems Citation Theory (SSCT): A proposal to use the social systems theory for conceptualizing publications and their citation links. *Profesional de la información*, 31(4). Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.3145/epi.2022.jul.11>
- Tavernaro-Haidarian, L. (2019). Decolonization and development: Reimagining key concepts in education. *Research in Education*, 103(1), 19-33. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/0034523719839750>

Nepal Journal of Multidisciplinary Research (NJMR)

Vol. 7, No. 1, March 2024. Pages: 1-21

ISSN: 2645-8470 (Print), ISSN: 2705-4691 (Online)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3126/njmr.v7i1.65142>

- Thambinathan, V., & Kinsella, E. A. (2021). Decolonizing Methodologies in Qualitative Research: Creating Spaces for Transformative Praxis. *International Journal of Qualitative Methods*, 20. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1177/16094069211014766>
- Thomas, M., & Thompson, A. (2014). Empire and Globalisation: from 'High Imperialism' to Decolonisation. *The International History Review*, 36(1), 142-170. Retrieved from <https://doi.org/10.1080/07075332.2013.828643>
- Wright, E. J. (2023). Decolonizing Zemiology: Outlining and Remediating the Blindness to (Post)colonialism Within the Study of Social Harm. *Critical Criminology*, 31(2), 127–144. doi:10.1007/s10612-022-09682-5
- Yang, S., & Dong, K. (2017). *Author Distribution of Literature Information: Lotka's Law*. Informetrics.